

Account. The Capitalized Interest Account shall be maintained with the trustee for the related series of securities and is designed solely to cover the above-mentioned interest shortfalls. Neither the monies on deposit in the Capitalized Interest Account nor any amounts paid by Countrywide Home Loans will be available to cover losses on or in respect of the related loans. To the extent that the entire amount on deposit in the Capitalized Interest Account has not been applied to cover shortfalls in interest on the related series of securities by the end of the Funding Period, any amounts remaining in the Capitalized Interest Account will be paid to the depositor.

#### **Investments in Amounts Held in Accounts**

Unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, funds held in a Security Account, any Pre-Funding Account, any Capitalized Interest Account, any reserve fund or any other accounts that are part of the Trust Fund Assets, may be invested in "Permitted Investments" which may include one or more of the following:

- (i) obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, provided the obligations are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States;
- (ii) general obligations of or obligations guaranteed by any state of the United States or the District of Columbia receiving the highest long-term debt rating of each Rating Agency rating the related series of securities, or such lower rating as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings then assigned to the related securities by each Rating Agency;
- (iii) commercial paper issued by Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. or any of its affiliates; provided that the commercial paper is rated no lower than the rating specified in the related prospectus supplement;
- (iv) commercial or finance company paper which is then receiving the highest commercial or finance company paper rating of each Rating Agency, or such lower rating as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings then assigned to the related securities by each Rating Agency;
- (v) certificates of deposit, demand or time deposits, or bankers' acceptances issued by any depository institution or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof and subject to supervision and examination by federal and/or state banking authorities, provided that the commercial paper and/or long term unsecured debt obligations of the depository institution or trust company (or in the case of the principal depository institution in a holding company system, the commercial paper or long-term unsecured debt obligations of the holding company, but only if Moody's Investors Service, Inc. is not a Rating Agency) are then rated one of the two highest long-term and the highest short-term ratings of each Rating Agency for the securities, or such lower ratings as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings then assigned to the related securities by each Rating Agency;
- (vi) demand or time deposits or certificates of deposit issued by any bank or trust company or savings institution to the extent that the deposits are fully insured by the FDIC;
- (vii) guaranteed reinvestment agreements issued by any bank, insurance company or other corporation containing, at the time of the issuance of the agreements, the terms and conditions as each Rating Agency has confirmed in writing are sufficient for the ratings originally assigned to the related securities by each such Rating Agency;
- (viii) repurchase obligations with respect to any security described in clauses (i) and (ii) above, in either case entered into with a depository institution or trust company (acting as principal) described in clause (v) above;
- (ix) securities (other than stripped bonds, stripped coupons or instruments sold at a purchase price in excess of 115% of the face amount thereof) bearing interest or sold at a discount issued by any corporation incorporated under the laws of the United States or any state thereof which, at the time of the

investment, have one of the two highest ratings of each Rating Agency (except if the Rating Agency is Moody's, the rating shall be the highest commercial paper rating of Moody's for any of those securities), or such lower ratings as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings then assigned to the related securities by each Rating Agency;

(x) interests in any money market fund which at the date of acquisition of the interests in the fund and throughout the time the interests are held in the fund has the highest applicable rating by each Rating Agency or a lower rating as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings then assigned to the related securities by each Rating Agency;

(xi) units of a taxable money-market portfolio having the highest rating assigned by each Rating Agency and restricted to obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States of America or entities whose obligations are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America and repurchase agreements collateralized by such obligations;

(xii) short term investment funds sponsored by any trust company or national banking association incorporated under the laws of the United States or any state thereof which on the date of acquisition has been rated by each Rating Agency in their respective highest applicable rating category or a lower rating as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings then assigned to the related securities by each Rating Agency; and

(xiii) other investments that have a specified stated maturity and bearing interest or sold at a discount acceptable to each Rating Agency as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the rating then assigned to the related securities by any Rating Agency, as evidenced by a signed writing delivered by each Rating Agency; provided that none of those investments shall be a Permitted Investment if the investments evidences the right to receive interest only payments with respect to the obligations underlying the investment.

If a letter of credit is deposited with the trustee, that letter of credit will be irrevocable and will name the trustee, in its capacity as trustee for the holders of the securities, as beneficiary and will be issued by an entity acceptable to each Rating Agency that rates the securities of the related series. Additional information with respect to the instruments deposited in the accounts will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, the Permitted Investments will be held in the name of the trustee for the benefit of the securityholders and may not mature later than:

- in the case of a Security Account, the second business day next preceding the date on which funds must be transferred to the trustee in each month (except that if the Permitted Investment is an obligation of the institution that maintains the Security Account, then the Permitted Investment may not mature later than the business day next preceding that date) and may not be sold or disposed of prior to its maturity; and
- in the case of the any other account, the business day immediately preceding the first distribution date that follows the date of the investment (except that if the Permitted Investment is an obligation of the institution that maintains the account, then the Permitted Investment may mature not later than the related distribution date) and may not be sold or disposed of prior to its maturity.

#### **Sub-Servicing by Sellers**

Each seller of a loan or any other servicing entity may act as the sub-servicer for the loan pursuant to a sub-servicing agreement, which will not contain any terms inconsistent with the related Agreement. Notwithstanding any subservicing arrangement, unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the master servicer will remain liable for its servicing duties and obligations under the related Agreement as if the master servicer alone were servicing the loans.

### **Collection Procedures**

The master servicer, directly or through one or more sub-servicers, will make reasonable efforts to collect all payments called for under the loans and will, consistent with each Agreement and any mortgage insurance policy required to be maintained under the related Agreement, follow collection procedures that are customary with respect to loans that are comparable to the loans. Consistent with the above, the master servicer may, in its discretion, waive any assumption fee, late payment or other charge in connection with a loan and to the extent not inconsistent with the coverage of the loan by any mortgage insurance policy required to be maintained under the related Agreement, if applicable, arrange with a borrower a schedule for the liquidation of delinquencies running for no more than 180 days after the applicable due date for each payment. To the extent the master servicer is obligated to make or cause to be made advances, the obligation will remain during any period of that arrangement.

The applicable prospectus supplement may provide for other alternatives regarding due-on-sale clause, but if it does not, in any case in which property securing a loan has been, or is about to be, conveyed by the mortgagor or obligor, the master servicer will, to the extent it has knowledge of the conveyance or proposed conveyance, exercise or cause to be exercised its rights to accelerate the maturity of the loan under any due-on-sale clause applicable thereto, but only if the exercise of the rights is permitted by applicable law and will not impair or threaten to impair any recovery under any mortgage insurance policy required to be maintained under the related Agreement. If these conditions are not met or if the master servicer reasonably believes it is unable under applicable law to enforce the due-on-sale clause or if coverage under any required mortgage insurance policy would be adversely affected, the master servicer will enter into or cause to be entered into an assumption and modification agreement with the person to whom the property has been or is about to be conveyed, pursuant to which the person becomes liable for repayment of the loan and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, the mortgagor remains liable thereon. Any fee collected by or on behalf of the master servicer for entering into an assumption agreement will be retained by or on behalf of the master servicer as additional servicing compensation. See “Certain Legal Aspects of the Loans — Due-on-Sale Clauses”. In connection with any assumption, the terms of the related loan may not be changed.

With respect to cooperative loans, any prospective purchaser will generally have to obtain the approval of the board of directors of the relevant cooperative before purchasing the shares and acquiring rights under the related proprietary lease or occupancy agreement. See “Certain Legal Aspects of the Loans”. This approval is usually based on the purchaser’s income and net worth and numerous other factors. Although the cooperative’s approval is unlikely to be unreasonably withheld or delayed, the necessity of acquiring approval could limit the number of potential purchasers for those shares and otherwise limit the trust fund’s ability to sell and realize the value of those shares.

In general a “tenant-stockholder” (as defined in Code Section 216(b)(2)) of a corporation that qualifies as a “cooperative housing corporation” within the meaning of Code Section 216(b)(1) is allowed a deduction for amounts paid or accrued within his taxable year to the corporation representing his proportionate share of certain interest expenses and certain real estate taxes allowable as a deduction under Code Section 216(a) to the corporation under Code Sections 163 and 164. In order for a corporation to qualify under Code Section 216(b)(1) for its taxable year in which those items are allowable as a deduction to the corporation, that Section requires, among other things, that at least 80% of the gross income of the corporation be derived from its tenant-stockholders (as defined in Code Section 216(b)(2)). By virtue of this requirement, the status of a corporation for purposes of Code Section 216(b)(1) must be determined on a year-to-year basis. Consequently, we can give no assurance that cooperatives relating to the cooperative loans will qualify under that Section for any particular year. In the event that a cooperative fails to qualify for one or more years, the value of the collateral securing any related cooperative loans could be significantly impaired because no deduction would be allowable to tenant-stockholders under Code Section 216(a) with respect to those years. In view of the significance of the tax benefits accorded tenant-stockholders of a corporation that qualifies under Code Section 216(b)(1), the likelihood that a failure to qualify would be permitted to continue over a period of years appears remote.

### **Hazard Insurance**

In general, the master servicer will require the mortgagor or obligor on each loan to maintain a hazard insurance policy providing for coverage in an amount that is at least equal to the lesser of:

- the maximum insurable value of the improvements securing the loan; or
- the greater of:

(1) the outstanding principal balance of the loan; and

(2) an amount such that the proceeds of the policy shall be sufficient to prevent the mortgagor and/or the mortgagee from becoming a co-insurer.

All amounts collected by the master servicer under any hazard policy (except for amounts to be applied to the restoration or repair of the Property or released to the mortgagor or obligor in accordance with the master servicer's normal servicing procedures) will be deposited in the related Security Account. In the event that the master servicer maintains a blanket policy insuring against hazard losses on all the loans comprising part of a trust fund, it will conclusively be deemed to have satisfied its obligation relating to the maintenance of hazard insurance. The blanket policy may contain a deductible clause, in which case the master servicer will be required to deposit from its own funds into the related Security Account the amounts which would have been deposited therein but for that clause.

In general, the standard form of fire and extended coverage policy covers physical damage to or destruction of the improvements securing a loan by fire, lightning, explosion, smoke, windstorm and hail, riot, strike and civil commotion, subject to the conditions and exclusions particularized in each policy. Although the policies relating to the loans may have been underwritten by different insurers under different state laws in accordance with different applicable forms and therefore may not contain identical terms and conditions, the basic terms thereof are dictated by respective state laws, and most policies typically do not cover any physical damage resulting from the following: war, revolution, governmental actions, floods and other water-related causes, earth movement (including earthquakes, landslides and mud flows), nuclear reactions, wet or dry rot, vermin, rodents, insects or domestic animals, theft and, in certain cases, vandalism and hurricanes. The foregoing list is merely indicative of certain kinds of uninsured risks and is not intended to be all inclusive. If the Property securing a loan is located in a federally designated special flood area at the time of origination, the master servicer will require the mortgagor or obligor to obtain and maintain flood insurance.

The hazard insurance policies covering properties securing the loans typically contain a clause which in effect requires the insured at all time to carry insurance of a specified percentage (generally 80% to 90%) of the full replacement value of the insured property in order to recover the full amount of any partial loss. If the insured's coverage falls below this specified percentage, then the insurer's liability in the event of partial loss will not exceed the larger of

- the actual cash value (generally defined as replacement cost at the time and place of loss, less physical depreciation) of the improvements damaged or destroyed and
- the proportion of the loss as the amount of insurance carried bears to the specified percentage of the full replacement cost of the improvements.

Since the amount of hazard insurance the master servicer may cause to be maintained on the improvements securing the loans declines as the principal balances owing thereon decrease, and since improved real estate generally has appreciated in value over time in the past, the effect of this requirement in the event of partial loss may be that hazard insurance proceeds will be insufficient to restore fully the damaged property. If specified in the related prospectus supplement, a special hazard insurance policy will be obtained to insure against certain of the uninsured risks described above. See "Credit Enhancement".

The master servicer will not require that a standard hazard or flood insurance policy be maintained on the cooperative dwelling relating to any cooperative loan. Generally, the cooperative itself is responsible for maintenance of hazard insurance for the property owned by the cooperative and the tenant-stockholders of that cooperative do not maintain individual hazard insurance policies. To the extent, however, that a cooperative and the related borrower on a cooperative loan do not maintain that insurance or do not maintain adequate coverage or any

insurance proceeds are not applied to the restoration of damaged property, any damage to the borrower's cooperative dwelling or the cooperative's building could significantly reduce the value of the collateral securing the cooperative loan to the extent not covered by other credit support.

If the Property securing a defaulted loan is damaged and proceeds, if any, from the related hazard insurance policy are insufficient to restore the damaged Property, the master servicer is not required to expend its own funds to restore the damaged Property unless it determines (i) that the restoration will increase the proceeds to securityholders on liquidation of the loan after reimbursement of the master servicer for its expenses and (ii) that the expenses will be recoverable by it from related Insurance Proceeds, Liquidation Proceeds or Subsequent Recoveries.

If recovery on a defaulted loan under any related Insurance Policy is not available for the reasons set forth in the preceding paragraph, or if the defaulted loan is not covered by an Insurance Policy, the master servicer will be obligated to follow or cause to be followed those normal practices and procedures as it deems necessary or advisable to realize upon the defaulted loan. If the proceeds of any liquidation of the Property securing the defaulted loan are less than the principal balance of the loan plus interest accrued thereon that is payable to securityholders, the trust fund will realize a loss in the amount of the difference plus the aggregate of expenses incurred by the master servicer in connection with the proceedings and which are reimbursable under the Agreement. In the unlikely event that those proceedings result in a total recovery which is, after reimbursement to the master servicer of its expenses, in excess of the principal balance of the loan plus interest accrued thereon that is payable to securityholders, the master servicer will be entitled to withdraw or retain from the Security Account amounts representing its normal servicing compensation with respect to the loan and amounts representing the balance of the excess, exclusive of any amount required by law to be forwarded to the related borrower, as additional servicing compensation.

If the master servicer or its designee recovers Insurance Proceeds which, when added to any related Liquidation Proceeds and after deduction of certain expenses reimbursable to the master servicer, exceed the principal balance of the loan plus interest accrued thereon that is payable to securityholders, the master servicer will be entitled to withdraw or retain from the Security Account amounts representing its normal servicing compensation with respect to the loan. In the event that the master servicer has expended its own funds to restore the damaged Property and the funds have not been reimbursed under the related hazard insurance policy, it will be entitled to withdraw from the Security Account out of related Liquidation Proceeds or Insurance Proceeds an amount equal to the expenses incurred by it, in which event the trust fund may realize a loss up to the amount so charged. Since Insurance Proceeds cannot exceed deficiency claims and certain expenses incurred by the master servicer, that payment or recovery will not result in a recovery to the trust fund which exceeds the principal balance of the defaulted loan together with accrued interest thereon. See "Credit Enhancement".

#### **Application of Liquidation Proceeds**

The proceeds from any liquidation of a loan will be applied in the following order of priority:

- to reimburse the master servicer for any unreimbursed expenses incurred by it to restore the related Property and any unreimbursed servicing compensation payable to the master servicer with respect to the loan;
- to reimburse the master servicer and trustee for any unreimbursed advances with respect to the loan;
- to accrued and unpaid interest (to the extent no advance has been made for that amount or the advance has been reimbursed) on the loan; and
- as a recovery of principal of the loan.

Unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, excess proceeds from the liquidation of a loan will be retained by the master servicer as additional servicing compensation.

If specified in the related prospectus supplement, if, after final liquidation of a mortgage loan, the master servicer receives a recovery specifically related to that mortgage loan, the recovery (net of any reimbursable

expenses) will be distributed to the securityholders in the manner specified in the related prospectus supplement. In addition, the principal balance of each class of securities to which realized losses have been allocated, will be increased, sequentially in the order of payment priority, to the extent that such subsequent recoveries are distributed as principal to any class of securities. However, the principal balance of the class of securities will not be increased by more than the amount of realized losses previously applied to reduce the principal balance of each the class of securities. Holders of securities whose class principal balance is increased in this manner will not be entitled to interest on the increased balance for any interest accrual period preceding the Distribution Date on which the increase occurs.

### **Realization Upon Defaulted Loans**

*Primary Mortgage Insurance Policies.* If so specified in the related prospectus supplement, the master servicer will maintain or cause to be maintained, as the case may be, in full force and effect, a Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy with regard to each loan for which the coverage is required. Primary Mortgage Insurance Policies reimburse certain losses sustained by reason of defaults in payments by borrowers. The master servicer will not cancel or refuse to renew any Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy in effect at the time of the initial issuance of a series of securities that is required to be kept in force under the applicable Agreement unless the replacement Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy for the cancelled or nonrenewed policy is maintained with an insurer whose claims-paying ability is sufficient to maintain the current rating of the classes of securities of the series that have been rated.

Although the terms of primary mortgage insurance vary, the amount of a claim for benefits under a Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy covering a loan will consist of the insured percentage of the unpaid principal amount of the covered loan and accrued and unpaid interest on it and reimbursement of certain expenses, less all rents or other payments collected or received by the insured (other than the proceeds of hazard insurance) that are derived from or in any way related to the Property, hazard insurance proceeds in excess of the amount required to restore the Property and which have not been applied to the payment of the mortgage loan, amounts expended but not approved by the issuer of the related Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy, claim payments previously made by the primary insurer and unpaid premiums.

Primary Mortgage Insurance Policies reimburse certain losses sustained from defaults in payments by borrowers. Primary Mortgage Insurance Policies will not insure against, and exclude from coverage, a loss sustained from a default arising from or involving certain matters, including fraud or negligence in origination or servicing of the loans, including misrepresentation by the originator, mortgagor, obligor or other persons involved in the origination of the loan; failure to construct the Property subject to the mortgage loan in accordance with specified plans; physical damage to the Property; and the related sub-servicer not being approved as a servicer by the primary insurer.

As conditions precedent to the filing of or payment of a claim under a Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy covering a loan, the insured will generally be required to

- advance or discharge all hazard insurance policy premiums and as necessary and approved in advance by the primary insurer, real estate property taxes, all expenses required to maintain the related Property in at least as good a condition as existed at the effective date of the Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy, ordinary wear and tear excepted, Property sales expenses, any specified outstanding liens on the Property and foreclosure costs, including court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees;
- upon any physical loss or damage to the Property, have the Property restored and repaired to at least as good a condition as existed at the effective date of the Primary Mortgage Insurance Policy, ordinary wear and tear excepted; and
- tender to the primary insurer good and merchantable title to and possession of the Property.

The master servicer, on behalf of itself, the trustee and the certificateholders, will present claims to the insurer under each primary mortgage insurance policy, and will take any reasonable steps consistent with its

practices regarding comparable mortgage loans and necessary to receive payment or to permit recovery under the policy with respect to defaulted mortgage loans.

*FHA Insurance; VA Guaranties.* Loans designated in the related prospectus supplement as insured by the FHA will be insured by the FHA as authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended. Certain loans will be insured under various FHA programs including the standard FHA 203 (b) program to finance the acquisition of one- to four-family housing units and the FHA 245 graduated payment mortgage program. These programs generally limit the principal amount and interest rates of the mortgage loans insured. Loans insured by FHA generally require a minimum down payment of approximately 5% of the original principal amount of the loan. No FHA-insured loans relating to a series may have an interest rate or original principal amount exceeding the applicable FHA limits at the time of origination of the loan.

The insurance premiums for loans insured by the FHA are collected by lenders approved by the HUD or by the master servicer or any sub-servicers and are paid to the FHA. The regulations governing FHA single-family mortgage insurance programs provide that insurance benefits are payable either upon foreclosure (or other acquisition of possession) and conveyance of the mortgaged premises to HUD or upon assignment of the defaulted loan to HUD. With respect to a defaulted FHA-insured loan, the master servicer or any sub-servicer is limited in its ability to initiate foreclosure proceedings. When it is determined, either by the master servicer or any sub-servicer or HUD, that default was caused by circumstances beyond the mortgagor's control, the master servicer or any sub-servicer is expected to make an effort to avoid foreclosure by entering, if feasible, into one of a number of available forms of forbearance plans with the mortgagor. These plans may involve the reduction or suspension of regular loan payments for a specified period, with the payments to be made up on or before the maturity date of the loan, or the recasting of payments due under the loan up to or beyond the maturity date. In addition, when a default caused by circumstances beyond the mortgagor's control is accompanied by certain other criteria, HUD may provide relief by making payments to the master servicer or any sub-servicer in partial or full satisfaction of amounts due under the loan (which payments are to be repaid by the mortgagor to HUD) or by accepting assignment of the loan from the master servicer or any sub-servicer. With certain exceptions, at least three full monthly installments must be due and unpaid under the loan and HUD must have rejected any request for relief from the mortgagor before the master servicer or any sub-servicer may initiate foreclosure proceedings.

HUD has the option, in most cases, to pay insurance claims in cash or in debentures issued by HUD. Currently, claims are being paid in cash, and claims have not been paid in debentures since 1965. HUD debentures issued in satisfaction of FHA insurance claims bear interest at the applicable HUD debentures interest rate. The master servicer of any sub-servicer of each FHA-insured mortgage loan will be obligated to purchase the debenture issued in satisfaction of the loan upon default for an amount equal to the principal amount of the debenture.

The amount of insurance benefits generally paid by the FHA is equal to the entire unpaid principal amount of the defaulted loan adjusted to reimburse the master servicer or sub-servicer for certain costs and expenses and to deduct certain amounts received or retained by the master servicer or sub-servicer after default. When entitlement to insurance benefits results from foreclosure (or other acquisition of possession) and conveyance to HUD, the master servicer or sub-servicer is compensated for no more than two-thirds of its foreclosure costs, and is compensated for accrued and unpaid interest but in general only to the extent it was allowed pursuant to a forbearance plan approved by HUD. When entitlement to insurance benefits results from assignment of the loan to HUD, the insurance payment includes full compensation for interest accrued and unpaid to the assignment date. The insurance payment itself, upon foreclosure of an FHA-insured mortgage loan, bears interest from a date 30 days after the mortgagor's first uncorrected failure to perform any obligation to make any payment due under the loan and, upon assignment, from the date of assignment to the date of payment of the claim, in each case at the same interest rate as the applicable HUD debenture interest rate as described above.

Loans designated in the related prospectus supplement as guaranteed by the VA will be partially guaranteed by the VA under the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended (a "VA Guaranty"). The Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, as amended, permits a veteran (or in certain instances the spouse of a veteran) to obtain a mortgage loan guaranty by the VA covering mortgage financing of the purchase of a one- to four-family dwelling unit at interest rates permitted by the VA. The program has no mortgage loan limits, requires no down payment from the purchaser and permits the guaranty of mortgage loans of up to 30 years' duration. However, no loan guaranteed by the VA will have an original principal amount greater than five times the partial VA guaranty for the

loan. The maximum guaranty that may be issued by the VA under a VA guaranteed mortgage loan depends upon the original principal amount of the mortgage loan, as further described in 38 United States Code Section 1803(a), as amended.

The liability on the guaranty may be reduced or increased pro rata with any reduction or increase in the amount of indebtedness, but in no event will the amount payable on the guaranty exceed the amount of the original guaranty. The VA, at its option and without regard to the guaranty, may make full payment to a mortgage holder of unsatisfied indebtedness on a loan upon its assignment to the VA.

With respect to a defaulted VA guaranteed loan, the master servicer or sub-servicer is, absent exceptional circumstances, authorized to announce its intention to foreclose only when the default has continued for three months. Generally, a claim for the guaranty is submitted after liquidation of the mortgaged property.

The amount payable under the guaranty will be the percentage of the VA-insured loan originally guaranteed applied to indebtedness outstanding as of the applicable date of computation specified in the VA regulations. Payments under the guaranty will be equal to the unpaid principal amount of the loan, interest accrued on the unpaid balance of the loan to the appropriate date of computation and limited expenses of the mortgagee, but in each case only to the extent that the amounts have not been recovered through liquidation of the mortgaged property.

#### **Servicing and Other Compensation and Payment of Expenses**

The principal servicing compensation to be paid to the master servicer in respect of its master servicing activities for each series of securities will be equal to the percentage per annum described in the related prospectus supplement (which may vary under certain circumstances) of the outstanding principal balance of each loan, and that compensation will be retained by it from collections of interest on the loan in the related trust fund (the "Master Servicing Fee"). As compensation for its servicing duties, a sub-servicer or, if there is no sub-servicer, the master servicer will be entitled to a monthly servicing fee as described in the related prospectus supplement. In addition, generally, the master servicer or sub-servicer will retain all prepayment charges, assumption fees and late payment charges, to the extent collected from borrowers, and any benefit that may accrue as a result of the investment of funds in the applicable Security Account.

The master servicer will, to the extent permitted in the related Pooling and Servicing Agreement or Sale and Servicing Agreement, pay or cause to be paid certain ongoing expenses associated with each trust fund and incurred by it in connection with its responsibilities under the related Agreement, including, without limitation, payment of any fee or other amount payable in respect of any credit enhancement arrangements, payment of the fees and disbursements of the trustee, unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, any custodian appointed by the trustee, the certificate registrar and any paying agent, and payment of expenses incurred in enforcing the obligations of sub-servicers and sellers. The master servicer will be entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred in enforcing the obligations of sub-servicers and sellers under certain limited circumstances. In addition, as indicated in the preceding section, the master servicer will be entitled to reimbursement for certain expenses incurred by it in connection with any defaulted loan as to which it has determined that all recoverable Liquidation Proceeds and Insurance Proceeds have been received and in connection with the restoration of Properties, the right of reimbursement being before the rights of holders of the securities to receive any related Liquidation Proceeds (including Insurance Proceeds).

#### **Evidence as to Compliance**

Each Agreement will provide for delivery to the depositor and the trustee, on or before a specified date in each year, of an annual statement signed by an authorized officer of the master servicer to the effect that the master servicer has fulfilled its obligations under the Agreement throughout the preceding year.

Each Agreement will also provide for delivery to the depositor, the master servicer and the trustee, on or before a specified date in each year, of an annual servicing assessment report from each party performing servicing functions with respect to the related series, including any servicer that services 5% or more of the Trust Fund Assets.



In each assessment report, the party providing the report must include an assessment of its compliance with the servicing criteria during the previous fiscal year, and disclose any material noncompliance with the applicable servicing criteria. The servicing criteria are divided generally into four categories:

- general servicing considerations;
- cash collection and administration;
- investor remittances and reporting; and
- pool asset administration.

Each servicing assessment report is required to be accompanied by attestation report provided by a public registered accounting firm. The attestation report must contain an opinion of the registered public accounting firm as to whether the related servicing criteria assessment was fairly stated in all material respects, or a statement that the firm cannot express that opinion. The attestation examination must be made in accordance with the attestation engagement standards issued or adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

Copies of the annual servicing compliance statement, the servicing criteria assessment report and related accountants attestations and the annual accountants' statement (if any) may be obtained by securityholders of the related series without charge upon written request to the master servicer at the address set forth in the related prospectus supplement.

#### **Certain Matters Regarding the Master Servicer and the Depositor**

The master servicer under each Pooling and Servicing Agreement or Sale and Servicing Agreement, as applicable, will be named in the related prospectus supplement. The entity serving as master servicer may have normal business relationships with the depositor or the depositor's affiliates.

Each Agreement will provide that the master servicer may not resign from its obligations and duties under the Agreement except upon a determination that its duties thereunder are no longer permissible under applicable law or upon appointment of a successor servicer and with receipt by the trustee of written confirmation from each Ratings Agency that such resignation and appointment would not result in a downgrade or withdrawal of the ratings of any of the securities. The master servicer may, however, be removed from its obligations and duties as set forth in the Agreement. No resignation will become effective until the trustee or a successor servicer has assumed the master servicer's obligations and duties under the Agreement.

Each Agreement will further provide that neither the master servicer, the depositor nor any director, officer, employee, or agent of the master servicer or the depositor will be under any liability to the securityholders for any action taken or for refraining from the taking of any action in good faith pursuant to the Agreement, or for errors in judgment; provided, however, that neither the master servicer, the depositor nor any person will be protected against any breach of a representation and warranty, any liability which would otherwise be imposed by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of duties thereunder or by reason of reckless disregard of obligations and duties thereunder. Each Agreement will further provide that the master servicer, the depositor and any director, officer, employee or agent of the master servicer or the depositor will be entitled to indemnification by the related trust fund and will be held harmless against any loss, liability or expense incurred in connection with any audit, controversy or judicial proceeding relating to a governmental taxing authority or any legal action relating to the Agreement or the securities, other than any loss, liability or expense related to any specific loan or loans (except any loss, liability or expense otherwise reimbursable pursuant to the Agreement) and any loss, liability or expense incurred by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of duties thereunder or by reason of reckless disregard of obligations and duties thereunder. In addition, each Agreement will provide that neither the master servicer nor the depositor will be under any obligation to appear in, prosecute or defend any legal action which is not incidental to its respective responsibilities under the Agreement and which in its opinion may involve it in any expense or liability. The master servicer or the depositor

may, however, in its discretion undertake any action which it may deem necessary or desirable with respect to the Agreement and the rights and duties of the parties thereto and the interests of the trustee and the securityholders thereunder. In that event, the legal expenses and costs of the action and any liability resulting therefrom will be expenses, costs and liabilities of the trust fund and the master servicer or the depositor, as the case may be, will be entitled to be reimbursed therefor out of funds otherwise distributable to securityholders.

In general, any person into which the master servicer may be merged or consolidated, or any person resulting from any merger or consolidation to which the master servicer is a party, or any person succeeding to the business of the master servicer, will be the successor of the master servicer under each Agreement, provided that that person is qualified to sell mortgage loans to, and service mortgage loans on behalf of, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

### **Events of Default; Rights Upon Event of Default**

*Pooling and Servicing Agreement; Sale and Servicing Agreement.* The applicable prospectus supplement may provide for other Events of Default under any Pooling and Servicing Agreement or Sale and Servicing Agreement, but if it does not, the Events of Default will consist of

- any failure by the master servicer to deposit in the Security Account or remit to the trustee or trust, as applicable, any payment required to be made under the terms of the Agreement which continues unremedied for five days after the giving of written notice of the failure to the master servicer by the trustee or the depositor, or to the master servicer and the trustee by the holders of securities evidencing not less than 25% of the Voting Rights evidenced by the securities;
- any failure by the master servicer to observe or perform in any material respect any of its other covenants or agreements in the Agreement which failure materially affects the rights of the holders of the securities and continues unremedied for sixty days after the giving of written notice of the failure to the master servicer by the trustee or the depositor, or to the master servicer and the trustee by the holders of securities evidencing not less than 25% of the Voting Rights evidenced by the securities; and
- certain events of insolvency, readjustment of debt, marshalling of assets and liabilities or similar proceeding and certain actions by or on behalf of the master servicer indicating its insolvency, reorganization or inability to pay its obligations.

“Voting Rights” are the portion of voting rights of all of the securities that is allocated to any security pursuant to the terms of the Agreement.

If specified in the related prospectus supplement, the Agreement will permit the trustee to sell the Trust Fund Assets and the other assets of the trust fund described under “Credit Enhancement” herein in the event that payments on them are insufficient to make payments required in the Agreement. The assets of the trust fund will be sold only under the circumstances and in the manner specified in the related prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement may provide for steps required to be taken if an Event of Default remains unremedied, but if it does not, so long as an Event of Default under an Agreement remains unremedied, the trustee may, and under the circumstances decided in the related Master Servicing Agreement, shall at the direction of holders of certificates having not less than 66⅔% of the Voting Rights, or notes of any class evidencing not less than 25% of the aggregate percentage interests constituting that class, and under those circumstances as may be specified in the Agreement, the trustee shall terminate all of the rights and obligations of the master servicer under the Agreement relating to the trust fund and in and to the related Trust Fund Assets, whereupon the trustee will succeed to all of the responsibilities, duties and liabilities of the master servicer under the Agreement, including, if specified in the related prospectus supplement, the obligation to make advances, and will be entitled to similar compensation arrangements. After the master servicer has received notice of termination, the trustee may execute and deliver, on behalf of the master servicer, as attorney-in-fact or otherwise, any and all documents and other instruments, and do or accomplish all other acts or things necessary or appropriate to effect the termination of the master servicer, including the transfer and endorsement or assignment of the loans and related documents. The

master servicer has agreed to cooperate with the trustee in effecting the termination of the master servicer, including the transfer to the trustee of all cash amounts which shall at the time be credited to the Security Account, or thereafter be received with respect to the loans. Upon request of the trustee, the master servicer has also agreed, at its expense, to deliver to the assuming party all documents and records relating to each subservicing agreement and the loans then being serviced thereunder and an accounting of amounts collected held by it and otherwise use its best efforts to effect the orderly and efficient transfer of the subservicing agreement to the assuming party. No additional funds have been reserved to pay for any expenses not paid by the master servicer in connection with a servicing transfer.

In the event that the trustee is unwilling or unable to act as the successor to the master servicer, it may appoint, or petition a court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of, a mortgage loan servicing institution with a net worth of at least \$15,000,000 to act as successor to the master servicer under the Agreement. Pending that appointment, the trustee is obligated to act in that capacity. The trustee and any successor may agree upon the servicing compensation to be paid, which in no event may be greater than the compensation payable to the master servicer under the Agreement.

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, no securityholder, solely by virtue of the holder's status as a securityholder, will have any right under any Agreement to institute any proceeding with respect to the Agreement, unless the holder previously has given to the trustee written notice of default and unless the holders of securities of any class of that series evidencing not less than, in the case of certificates, 25% of the Voting Rights evidenced by the certificates and, in the case of notes, 25% of the aggregate percentage interests constituting the class have made written request upon the trustee to institute the proceeding in its own name as trustee thereunder and have offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity, and the trustee for 60 days has neglected or refused to institute that proceeding.

*Indenture.* The applicable prospectus supplement may provide for other Events of Default, but if it does not, the Events of Default under each Indenture will consist of:

- a default by the issuer in the payment of any principal of or interest on any note of that series which continues unremedied for five days after the giving of written notice of the default is given as specified in the related prospectus supplement;
- failure to perform in any material respect any other obligation or observe any representation or warranty of the issuer in the Indenture which continues for a period of thirty (30) days after notice thereof is given in accordance with the procedures described in the related prospectus supplement;
- certain events of insolvency with respect to the issuer; or
- any other Event of Default provided with respect to notes of that series including but not limited to certain defaults on the part of the issuer, if any, of a credit enhancement instrument supporting the notes.

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, if an Event of Default with respect to the notes of any series at the time outstanding occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 51% of the then aggregate outstanding amount of the notes of that series may declare the principal amount (or, if the notes of that series have an interest rate of 0%, the portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series, as provided in the related prospectus supplement) of all the notes of that series to be due and payable immediately. That declaration may, under certain circumstances, be rescinded and annulled by the holders of not less than 51% of the percentage interests of the notes of the series.

Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, if, following an Event of Default with respect to any series of notes, the notes of the series have been declared to be due and payable, the trustee may, notwithstanding that acceleration, elect to maintain possession of the collateral securing the notes of the series and to continue to apply distributions on the collateral as if there had been no declaration of acceleration if the collateral continues to provide sufficient funds for the payment of principal of and interest on the notes of the series as they would have become due if there had not been a declaration. In addition, unless otherwise specified in the related

prospectus supplement, the trustee may not sell or otherwise liquidate the collateral securing the notes of a series following an Event of Default, other than a default in the payment of any principal or interest on any note of the series for five days or more, unless

- the holders of 100% of the percentage interests of the notes of the series consent to the sale,
- the proceeds of the sale or liquidation are sufficient to pay in full the principal of and accrued interest, due and unpaid, on the outstanding notes of the series at the date of the sale or
- the trustee determines that the collateral would not be sufficient on an ongoing basis to make all payments on the notes as the payments would have become due if the notes had not been declared due and payable, and the trustee obtains the consent of the holders of a majority of the percentage interests of the notes of the series.

If specified in the related prospectus supplement, other parties, such as a credit enhancement provider, may have certain rights with respect to remedies upon an Event of Default that may limit the rights of the related noteholders.

In the event that the trustee liquidates the collateral in connection with an Event of Default involving a default for five days or more in the payment of principal of or interest on the notes of a series, the Indenture may provide that the trustee will have a prior lien on the proceeds of that liquidation for unpaid fees and expenses. As a result, upon the occurrence of that Event of Default, the amount available for distribution to the noteholders would be less than would otherwise be the case. However, the trustee may not institute a proceeding for the enforcement of its lien except in connection with a proceeding for the enforcement of the lien of the Indenture for the benefit of the noteholders after the occurrence of that Event of Default.

In the event the principal of the notes of a series is declared due and payable, as described above, the holders of the notes issued at a discount from par may be entitled to receive no more than an amount equal to the unpaid principal amount thereof less the amount of the discount which is unamortized.

Subject to the provisions of the Indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, in case an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to a series of notes, the trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the Indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of notes of the series, unless the holders offered to the trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in complying with the request or direction. Subject to the provisions for indemnification and certain limitations contained in the Indenture, the holders of not less than 51% of the then aggregate outstanding amount of the notes of the series shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the notes of the series, and the holders of not less than 51% of the then aggregate outstanding amount of the notes of the series may, in certain cases, waive any default with respect thereto, except a default in the payment of principal or interest or a default in respect of a covenant or provision of the Indenture that cannot be modified without the waiver or consent of all the holders of the outstanding notes of the series affected thereby. If provided in the related prospectus supplement, the priority of payments payable on the notes may change following an Event of Default.

#### **Amendment**

The applicable prospectus supplement may specify other amendment provisions, but if it does not, each Agreement may be amended by the parties to the Agreement, without the consent of any of the securityholders,

(a) to cure any ambiguity or mistake;

(b) to correct any defective provision in the Agreement or to supplement any provision in the Agreement that may be inconsistent with any other provision in it;

(c) to conform the Agreement to the related prospectus supplement or the prospectus provided to investors in connection with the initial offering of the securities;

(d) to add to the duties of the depositor, any seller or the master servicer;

(e) to modify, alter, amend, add to or rescind any of the terms or provisions contained in the Agreement to comply with any rules or regulations promulgated by the SEC from time to time;

(f) to add any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising hereunder; or

(g) to modify, alter, amend, add to or rescind any of the terms or provisions contained in this Agreement,

provided that no action pursuant to clauses (f) or (g) may, as evidenced by an opinion of counsel, adversely affect in any material respect the interests of any securityholder. No opinion of counsel will be required if the person requesting the amendment obtains a letter from each Rating Agency requested to rate the class or classes of securities of the related series stating that the amendment will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the respective ratings then assigned to the related securities.

In addition, to the extent provided in the related Agreement, an Agreement may be amended without the consent of any of the securityholders, to change the manner in which the Security Account is maintained, provided that the change does not adversely affect the then current rating on the class or classes of securities of the related series that have been rated at the request of the depositor. Moreover, the related Agreement may be amended to modify, eliminate or add to any of its provisions to the extent necessary to modify the terms or provisions related to any lower-tier REMIC, to maintain the qualification of the related trust fund as a REMIC or to avoid or minimize the risk of imposition of any tax on the REMIC, if a REMIC election is made with respect to the trust fund, or to comply with any other requirements of the Code, if the trustee has received an opinion of counsel to the effect that the action is necessary or helpful to ensure the proper operation of the master REMIC, maintain the qualification, avoid or minimize that risk or comply with those requirements, as applicable.

The applicable prospectus supplement may specify other amendment provisions, but if it does not, each Agreement may also be amended by the parties to the related Agreement with consent of holders of securities of the related series evidencing not less than 51% of the aggregate percentage interests of each class affected thereby for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of the Agreement or of modifying in any manner the rights of the holders of the related securities; provided, however, that the amendment may not

- reduce in any manner the amount of or delay the timing of, payments received on Trust Fund Assets which are required to be distributed on any security without the consent of the holder of the related security,
- adversely affect in any material respect the interests of the holders of any class of securities in a manner other than as described in the preceding bullet point, without the consent of the holders of securities of the class evidencing, as to the class, percentage interests aggregating 66⅔%, or
- reduce the aforesaid percentage of securities of any class the holders of which are required to consent to the amendment without the consent of the holders of all securities of that class covered by the Agreement then outstanding.

If a REMIC election is made with respect to a trust fund, the trustee will not be entitled to consent to an amendment to the related Agreement without having first received an opinion of counsel to the effect that the amendment will not cause the related trust fund to fail to qualify as a REMIC. If so described in the related prospectus supplement, an amendment of an Agreement may require the consent of persons that are not party to the agreement, such as a credit enhancement provider.

**Termination; Optional Termination**

*Pooling and Servicing Agreement; Sale and Servicing Agreement.* The applicable prospectus supplement may provide for the timing by which the Agreement terminates, but if it does not, the obligations created by each Pooling and Servicing Agreement and Sale and Servicing Agreement for each series of securities will terminate upon the payment to the related securityholders of all amounts held in the Security Account or by the master servicer and required to be paid to them pursuant to the related Agreement following the earlier of:

(i) the final payment of or other liquidation of the last of the Trust Fund Assets subject thereto or the disposition of all property acquired upon foreclosure of any Trust Fund Assets remaining in the trust fund; and

(ii) the purchase by the master servicer, the party specified in the related prospectus supplement or, if REMIC treatment has been elected and if specified in the related prospectus supplement, by the holder of the residual interest in the REMIC (see “Material Federal Income Tax Consequences” below), from the related trust fund of all of the remaining Trust Fund Assets and all property acquired in respect of the Trust Fund Assets.

Any purchase of Trust Fund Assets and property acquired in respect of Trust Fund Assets evidenced by a series of securities will be made at the option of the master servicer, or the party specified in the related prospectus supplement, including the holder of the REMIC residual interest, at a price specified in the related prospectus supplement. The exercise of this right will effect early retirement of the securities of that series, but the right of the master servicer, or the other party or, if applicable, the holder of the REMIC residual interest, to so purchase is subject to the principal balance of the related Trust Fund Assets being less than the percentage specified in the related prospectus supplement of the aggregate principal balance of the Trust Fund Assets at the cut-off date for the series. The foregoing is subject to the provision that if a REMIC election is made with respect to a trust fund, any repurchase pursuant to clause (ii) above will not be made if the repurchase would result in a “prohibited transaction tax” within the meaning of Section 860F(a)(1) of the Code being imposed on any REMIC.

*Indenture.* The Indenture will be discharged with respect to a series of notes (except with respect to certain continuing rights specified in the Indenture) upon the delivery to the trustee for cancellation of all the notes of the related series or, with certain limitations, upon deposit with the trustee of funds sufficient for the payment in full of all of the notes of the related series.

In addition, the Indenture will provide that, if so specified with respect to the notes of any series, the related trust fund will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the notes of the series (except for certain obligations relating to temporary notes and exchange of notes, to register the transfer of or exchange notes of the series, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated notes of the series, to maintain paying agencies and to hold monies for payment in trust) upon the deposit with the trustee, in trust, of money and/or direct obligations of or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America which through the payment of interest and principal in respect thereof in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and each installment of interest on the notes of the series on the last scheduled distribution date for the notes and any installment of interest on the notes in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and the notes of the series. In the event of a defeasance and discharge of notes of a series as described above, holders of notes of the related series would be able to look only to that money and/or direct obligations for payment of principal and interest, if any, on their notes until maturity.

**The Trustee**

The trustee under each Agreement will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The commercial bank or trust company serving as trustee may have normal banking relationships with the depositor, the master servicer and any of their respective affiliates.

### **Certain Legal Aspects of the Loans**

The following discussion contains summaries, which are general in nature, of certain legal matters relating to the loans. Because those legal aspects are governed primarily by applicable state law (which laws may differ substantially), the descriptions do not, except as expressly provided below, reflect the laws of any particular state, nor encompass the laws of all states in which the security for the loans is situated. The descriptions are qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable federal laws and the appropriate laws of the states in which loans may be originated.

#### **General**

The loans for a series may be secured by deeds of trust, mortgages, security deeds or deeds to secure debt, depending upon the prevailing practice in the state in which the property subject to the loan is located. Deeds of trust are used almost exclusively in California instead of mortgages. A mortgage creates a lien upon the real property encumbered by the mortgage, which lien is generally not prior to the lien for real estate taxes and assessments. Priority between mortgages depends on their terms and generally on the order of recording with a state or county office. There are two parties to a mortgage: the mortgagor, who is the borrower and owner of the mortgaged property, and the mortgagee, who is the lender. Under the mortgage instrument, the mortgagor delivers to the mortgagee a note or bond and the mortgage. Although a deed of trust is similar to a mortgage, a deed of trust formally has three parties, the borrower-property owner called the trustor (similar to a mortgagor), a lender (similar to a mortgagee) called the beneficiary, and a third-party grantee called the trustee. Under a deed of trust, the borrower grants the property, irrevocably until the debt is paid, in trust, generally with a power of sale, to the trustee to secure payment of the obligation. A security deed and a deed to secure debt are special types of deeds which indicate on their face that they are granted to secure an underlying debt. By executing a security deed or deed to secure debt, the grantor conveys title to, as opposed to merely creating a lien upon, the subject property to the grantee until the underlying debt is repaid. The trustee's authority under a deed of trust, the mortgagee's authority under a mortgage and the grantee's authority under a security deed or deed to secure debt are governed by law and, with respect to some deeds of trust, the directions of the beneficiary.

In this prospectus, we generally use the term "mortgage" to generically describe real-estate security instruments, however, if certain information relates to a particular security instrument, we will refer to that security instrument.

*Cooperatives.* Certain of the loans may be cooperative loans. The cooperative owns all the real property that comprises the project, including the land, separate dwelling units and all common areas. The cooperative is directly responsible for project management and, in most cases, payment of real estate taxes and hazard and liability insurance. If there is a blanket mortgage on the cooperative and/or underlying land, as is generally the case, the cooperative, as project mortgagor, is also responsible for meeting these mortgage obligations. A blanket mortgage is ordinarily incurred by the cooperative in connection with the construction or purchase of the cooperative's apartment building. The interest of the occupant under proprietary leases or occupancy agreements to which that cooperative is a party are generally subordinate to the interest of the holder of the blanket mortgage in that building. If the cooperative is unable to meet the payment obligations arising under its blanket mortgage, the mortgagee holding the blanket mortgage could foreclose on that mortgage and terminate all subordinate proprietary leases and occupancy agreements. In addition, the blanket mortgage on a cooperative may provide financing in the form of a mortgage that does not fully amortize with a significant portion of principal being due in one lump sum at final maturity. The inability of the cooperative to refinance this mortgage and its consequent inability to make the final payment could lead to foreclosure by the mortgagee providing the financing. A foreclosure in either event by the holder of the blanket mortgage could eliminate or significantly diminish the value of any collateral held by the lender who financed the purchase by an individual tenant-stockholder of cooperative shares or, in the case of a trust fund including cooperative loans, the collateral securing the cooperative loans.

The cooperative is owned by tenant-stockholders who, through ownership of stock, shares or membership certificates in the corporation, receive proprietary leases or occupancy agreements which confer exclusive rights to occupy specific units. Generally, a tenant-stockholder of a cooperative must make a monthly payment to the cooperative representing the tenant-stockholder's pro rata share of the cooperative's payments for its blanket mortgage, real property taxes, maintenance expenses and other capital or ordinary expenses. An ownership interest

in a cooperative and accompanying rights is financed through a cooperative share loan evidenced by a promissory note and secured by a security interest in the occupancy agreement or proprietary lease and in the related cooperative shares. The lender takes possession of the share certificate and a counterpart of the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement, and a financing statement covering the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement and the cooperative shares is filed in the appropriate state and local offices to perfect the lender's interest in its collateral. Subject to the limitations discussed below, upon default of the tenant-stockholder, the lender may sue for judgment on the promissory note, dispose of the collateral at a public or private sale or otherwise proceed against the collateral or tenant-stockholder as an individual as provided in the security agreement covering the assignment of the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement and the pledge of cooperative shares.

### **Foreclosure**

*Deed of Trust.* Foreclosure of a deed of trust is generally accomplished by a non-judicial sale under a specific provision in the deed of trust which authorizes the trustee to sell the property at public auction upon any material default by the borrower under the terms of the note or deed of trust. In certain states, foreclosure also may be accomplished by judicial action in the manner provided for foreclosure of mortgages. In addition to any notice requirements contained in a deed of trust, in some states (such as California), the trustee must record a notice of default and send a copy to the borrower-trustor, to any person who has recorded a request for a copy of any notice of default and notice of sale, to any successor in interest to the borrower-trustor, to the beneficiary of any junior deed of trust and to certain other persons. In some states (including California), the borrower-trustor has the right to reinstate the loan at any time following default until shortly before the trustee's sale. In general, the borrower, or any other person having a junior encumbrance on the real estate, may, during a statutorily prescribed reinstatement period, cure a monetary default by paying the entire amount in arrears plus other designated costs and expenses incurred in enforcing the obligation. Generally, state law controls the amount of foreclosure expenses and costs, including attorney's fees, which may be recovered by a lender. After the reinstatement period has expired without the default having been cured, the borrower or junior lienholder no longer has the right to reinstate the loan and must pay the loan in full to prevent the scheduled foreclosure sale. If the deed of trust is not reinstated within any applicable cure period, a notice of sale must be posted in a public place and, in most states (including California), published for a specific period of time in one or more newspapers. In addition, some state laws require that a copy of the notice of sale be posted on the property and sent to all parties having an interest of record in the real property. In California, the entire process from recording a notice of default to a non-judicial sale usually takes four to five months.

*Mortgages.* Foreclosure of a mortgage is generally accomplished by judicial action. The action is initiated by the service of legal pleadings upon all parties having an interest in the real property. Delays in completion of the foreclosure may occasionally result from difficulties in locating necessary parties. Judicial foreclosure proceedings are often not contested by any of the parties. When the mortgagee's right to foreclosure is contested, the legal proceedings necessary to resolve the issue can be time consuming. After the completion of a judicial foreclosure proceeding, the court generally issues a judgment of foreclosure and appoints a referee or other court officer to conduct the sale of the property. In some states, mortgages may also be foreclosed by advertisement, pursuant to a power of sale provided in the mortgage.

Although foreclosure sales are typically public sales, frequently no third party purchaser bids in excess of the lender's lien because of the difficulty of determining the exact status of title to the property, the possible deterioration of the property during the foreclosure proceedings and a requirement that the purchaser pay for the property in cash or by cashier's check. Thus the foreclosing lender often purchases the property from the trustee or referee for an amount equal to the principal amount outstanding under the loan, accrued and unpaid interest and the expenses of foreclosure in which event the mortgagor's debt will be extinguished or the lender may purchase for a lesser amount in order to preserve its right against a borrower to seek a deficiency judgment in states where the judgment is available. Thereafter, subject to the right of the borrower in some states to remain in possession during the redemption period, the lender will assume the burden of ownership, including obtaining hazard insurance and making the repairs at its own expense as are necessary to render the property suitable for sale. The lender will commonly obtain the services of a real estate broker and pay the broker's commission in connection with the sale of the property. Depending upon market conditions, the ultimate proceeds of the sale of the property may not equal the lender's investment in the property. Any loss may be reduced by the receipt of any mortgage guaranty insurance proceeds.



Courts have imposed general equitable principles upon foreclosure, which are generally designed to mitigate the legal consequences to the borrower of the borrower's defaults under the loan documents. Some courts have been faced with the issue of whether federal or state constitutional provisions reflecting due process concerns for fair notice require that borrowers under deeds of trust receive notice longer than that prescribed by statute. For the most part, these cases have upheld the notice provisions as being reasonable or have found that the sale by a trustee under a deed of trust does not involve sufficient state action to afford constitutional protection to the borrower.

When the beneficiary under a junior mortgage or deed of trust cures the default and reinstates or redeems by paying the full amount of the senior mortgage or deed of trust, the amount paid by the beneficiary so to cure or redeem becomes a part of the indebtedness secured by the junior mortgage or deed of trust. See "Junior Mortgages; Rights of Senior Mortgagees" below.

*Cooperative Loans.* The cooperative shares owned by the tenant-stockholder and pledged to the lender are, in almost all cases, subject to restrictions on transfer as set forth in the cooperative's certificate of incorporation and bylaws, as well as the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement, and may be cancelled by the cooperative for failure by the tenant-stockholder to pay rent or other obligations or charges owed by the tenant-stockholder, including mechanics' liens against the cooperative apartment building incurred by the tenant-stockholder. The proprietary lease or occupancy agreement generally permits the cooperative to terminate the lease or agreement in the event an obligor fails to make payments or defaults in the performance of covenants required thereunder. Typically, the lender and the cooperative enter into a recognition agreement which establishes the rights and obligations of both parties in the event of a default by the tenant-stockholder on its obligations under the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement. A default by the tenant-stockholder under the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement will usually constitute a default under the security agreement between the lender and the tenant-stockholder.

The recognition agreement generally provides that, in the event that the tenant-stockholder has defaulted under the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement, the cooperative will take no action to terminate the lease or agreement until the lender has been provided with an opportunity to cure the default. The recognition agreement typically provides that if the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement is terminated, the cooperative will recognize the lender's lien against proceeds from the sale of the cooperative apartment, subject, however, to the cooperative's right to sums due under the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement. The total amount owed to the cooperative by the tenant-stockholder, which the lender generally cannot restrict and does not monitor, could reduce the value of the collateral below the outstanding principal balance of the cooperative loan and accrued and unpaid interest thereon.

Recognition agreements also provide that in the event of a foreclosure on a cooperative loan, the lender must obtain the approval or consent of the cooperative as required by the proprietary lease before transferring the cooperative shares or assigning the proprietary lease. Generally, the lender is not limited in any rights it may have to dispossess the tenant-stockholders.

In some states, foreclosure on the cooperative shares is accomplished by a sale in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (the "UCC") and the security agreement relating to those shares. Article 9 of the UCC requires that a sale be conducted in a "commercially reasonable" manner. Whether a foreclosure sale has been conducted in a "commercially reasonable" manner will depend on the facts in each case. In determining commercial reasonableness, a court will look to the notice given the debtor and the method, manner, time, place and terms of the foreclosure. Generally, a sale conducted according to the usual practice of banks selling similar collateral will be considered reasonably conducted.

Article 9 of the UCC provides that the proceeds of the sale will be applied first to pay the costs and expenses of the sale and then to satisfy the indebtedness secured by the lender's security interest. The recognition agreement, however, generally provides that the lender's right to reimbursement is subject to the right of the cooperative to receive sums due under the proprietary lease or occupancy agreement. If there are proceeds remaining, the lender must account to the tenant-stockholder for the surplus. Conversely, if a portion of the indebtedness remains unpaid, the tenant-stockholder is generally responsible for the deficiency. See "Anti-Deficiency Legislation and Other Limitations on Lenders" below.

In the case of foreclosure on a building which was converted from a rental building to a building owned by a cooperative under a non-eviction plan, some states require that a purchaser at a foreclosure sale take the property subject to rent control and rent stabilization laws which apply to certain tenants who elected to remain in the building but who did not purchase shares in the cooperative when the building was so converted.

### **Environmental Risks**

Real property pledged as security to a lender may be subject to unforeseen environmental risks. Environmental remedial costs can be substantial and can potentially exceed the value of the property. Under the laws of certain states, contamination of a property may give rise to a lien on the property to assure the payment of the costs of clean-up. In several states that lien has priority over the lien of an existing mortgage against the property. In addition, under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA"), the EPA may impose a lien on property where EPA has incurred clean-up costs. However, a CERCLA lien is subordinate to pre-existing, perfected security interests.

Under the laws of some states, and under CERCLA, it is conceivable that a secured lender may be held liable as an "owner" or "operator" for the costs of addressing releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances at a Property, even though the environmental damage or threat was caused by a prior or current owner or operator. CERCLA imposes liability for the costs on any and all "potentially responsible parties," including "owners" or "operators". However, CERCLA excludes from the definition of "owner or operator" a secured creditor who holds indicia of ownership primarily to protect its security interest (the "secured creditor exemption") but without "participating in the management" of the property. Thus, if a lender's activities encroach on the actual management of a contaminated facility or property, the lender may incur liability as an "owner or operator" under CERCLA. Similarly, if a lender forecloses and takes title to a contaminated facility or property, the lender may incur CERCLA liability in various circumstances, including, but not limited to, when it fails to market the property in a timely fashion.

Whether actions taken by a lender would constitute participation in the management of a mortgaged property so as to render the secured creditor exemption unavailable to a lender, was historically a matter of judicial interpretation of the statutory language. Court decisions were inconsistent and, in fact, in 1990, the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit suggested that the mere capacity of the lender to influence a borrower's decisions regarding disposal of hazardous substances was sufficient participation in the management of a borrower's business to deny the protection of the secured creditor exemption to the lender. In 1996, Congress enacted the Asset Conservation, Lender Liability and Deposit Insurance Protection Act ("Asset Conservation Act"), which provides that, in order to be deemed to have participated in the management of a mortgaged property, a lender must actually participate in the operational affairs of the property. The Asset Conservation Act also provides that participation in the management of the property does not include "merely having the capacity to influence, or unexercised right to control" operations. Rather, a lender will lose the protection of the secured creditor exemption only if it (a) exercises decision making control over the borrower's environmental compliance and hazardous substance handling and disposal practices at the property, or (b) exercises control comparable to the manager of the property, so that the lender has assumed responsibility for (i) "the overall management of the facility encompassing day-to-day decision making with respect to environmental compliance" or (ii) "over all or substantially all of the operational functions" of the property other than environmental compliance.

If a lender is or becomes liable, it may be able to bring an action for contribution under CERCLA or other statutory or common laws against any other "potentially responsible parties," including a previous owner or operator, who created the environmental hazard, but those persons or entities may be bankrupt or otherwise judgment proof. The costs associated with environmental cleanup may be substantial. It is conceivable that the costs arising from the circumstances set forth above would result in a loss to certificateholders.

CERCLA does not apply to petroleum products, and the secured creditor exemption does not govern liability for cleanup costs under state laws or under federal laws other than CERCLA, including Subtitle I of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA"), which regulates underground petroleum storage tanks (except heating oil tanks). The EPA has adopted a lender liability rule for underground storage tanks under Subtitle I of RCRA. Under that rule, a holder of a security interest in an underground storage tank or real property containing an underground storage tank is not considered an operator of the underground storage tank as long as

petroleum is not added to, stored in or dispensed from the tank. Moreover, under the Asset Conservation Act, the protections accorded to lenders under CERCLA are also accorded to holders of security interests in underground petroleum storage tanks or the properties on which they are located. A lender will lose the protections accorded to secured creditors under federal law for petroleum underground storage tanks by “participating in the management” of the tank or tank system if the lender either: (a) “exercises decision making control over the operational” aspects of the tank or tank system; or (b) exercises control comparable to a manager of the property, so that the lender has assumed responsibility for overall management of the property including day-to-day decision making with regard to all, or substantially all, operational aspects. It should be noted, however, that liability for cleanup of petroleum contamination may be governed by state law, which may not provide for any specific protection for secured creditors.

While the “owner” or “operator” of contaminated property may face liability for investigating and cleaning up the property, regardless of fault, it may also be required to comply with environmental regulatory requirements, such as those governing asbestos. In addition, the presence of asbestos, mold, lead-based paint, lead in drinking water, and/or radon at a real property may lead to the incurrence of costs for remediation, mitigation or the implementation of an operations and maintenance plan. Furthermore, the presence of asbestos, mold, lead-based paint, lead in drinking water, radon and/or contamination at a property may present a risk that third parties will seek recovery from “owners” or “operators” of that property for personal injury or property damage. Environmental regulatory requirements for property “owners” or “operators,” or law that is the basis for claims of personal injury or property damage, may not have exemptions for secured creditors.

In general, at the time the loans were originated no environmental assessment, or a very limited environmental assessment, of the Properties was conducted.

### **Rights of Redemption**

In some states, after sale pursuant to a deed of trust or foreclosure of a mortgage, the borrower and foreclosed junior lienors are given a statutory period in which to redeem the property from the foreclosure sale. In certain other states (including California), this right of redemption applies only to sales following judicial foreclosure, and not to sales pursuant to a non-judicial power of sale. In most states where the right of redemption is available, statutory redemption may occur upon payment of the foreclosure purchase price, accrued interest and taxes. In other states, redemption may be authorized if the former borrower pays only a portion of the sums due. The effect of a statutory right of redemption is to diminish the ability of the lender to sell the foreclosed property. The exercise of a right of redemption would defeat the title of any purchaser from the lender subsequent to foreclosure or sale under a deed of trust. Consequently, the practical effect of the redemption right is to force the lender to retain the property and pay the expenses of ownership until the redemption period has run. In some states, there is no right to redeem property after a trustee’s sale under a deed of trust.

### **Anti-Deficiency Legislation and Other Limitations On Lenders**

Certain states have imposed statutory and judicial restrictions that limit the remedies of a beneficiary under a deed of trust or a mortgagee under a mortgage. In some states, including California, statutes and case law limit the right of the beneficiary or mortgagee to obtain a deficiency judgment against borrowers financing the purchase of their residence or following sale under a deed of trust or certain other foreclosure proceedings. A deficiency judgment is a personal judgment against the borrower equal in most cases to the difference between the amount due to the lender and the fair market value of the real property at the time of the foreclosure sale. In certain states, including California, if a lender simultaneously originates a loan secured by a senior lien on a particular property and a loan secured by a junior lien on the same property, that lender as the holder of the junior lien may be precluded from obtaining a deficiency judgment with respect to the excess of the aggregate amount owed under both loans over the proceeds of any sale under a deed of trust or other foreclosure proceedings. As a result of these prohibitions, it is anticipated that in most instances the master servicer will utilize the non-judicial foreclosure remedy and will not seek deficiency judgments against defaulting borrowers.

Some state statutes require the beneficiary or mortgagee to exhaust the security afforded under a deed of trust or mortgage by foreclosure in an attempt to satisfy the full debt before bringing a personal action against the borrower. In certain other states, the lender has the option of bringing a personal action against the borrower on the

debt without first exhausting that security; however, in some of these states, the lender, following judgment on that personal action, may be deemed to have elected a remedy and may be precluded from exercising remedies with respect to the security. Consequently, the practical effect of the election requirement, when applicable, is that lenders will usually proceed first against the security rather than bringing a personal action against the borrower. In some states, exceptions to the anti-deficiency statutes are provided for in certain instances where the value of the lender's security has been impaired by acts or omissions of the borrower, for example, in the event of waste of the property. Finally, other statutory provisions limit any deficiency judgment against the former borrower following a foreclosure sale to the excess of the outstanding debt over the fair market value of the property at the time of the public sale. The purpose of these statutes is generally to prevent a beneficiary or a mortgagee from obtaining a large deficiency judgment against the former borrower as a result of low or no bids at the foreclosure sale.

Generally, Article 9 of the UCC governs foreclosure on cooperative shares and the related proprietary lease or occupancy agreement. Some courts have interpreted section 9-504 of the UCC to prohibit a deficiency award unless the creditor establishes that the sale of the collateral (which, in the case of a cooperative loan, would be the shares of the cooperative and the related proprietary lease or occupancy agreement) was conducted in a commercially reasonable manner.

In addition to anti-deficiency and related legislation, numerous other federal and state statutory provisions, including the federal bankruptcy laws, and state laws affording relief to debtors, may interfere with or affect the ability of the secured mortgage lender to realize upon its security. For example, in a proceeding under the federal Bankruptcy Code, a lender may not foreclose on a mortgaged property without the permission of the bankruptcy court. The rehabilitation plan proposed by the debtor may provide, if the mortgaged property is not the debtor's principal residence and the court determines that the value of the mortgaged property is less than the principal balance of the mortgage loan, for the reduction of the secured indebtedness to the value of the mortgaged property as of the date of the commencement of the bankruptcy, rendering the lender a general unsecured creditor for the difference, and also may reduce the monthly payments due under the mortgage loan, change the rate of interest and alter the mortgage loan repayment schedule. The effect of any proceedings under the federal Bankruptcy Code, including but not limited to any automatic stay, could result in delays in receiving payments on the loans underlying a series of securities and possible reductions in the aggregate amount of the payments.

The federal tax laws provide priority to certain tax liens over the lien of a mortgage or secured party.

### **Due-On-Sale Clauses**

Generally, each conventional loan will contain a due-on-sale clause which will generally provide that if the mortgagor or obligor sells, transfers or conveys the Property, the loan or contract may be accelerated by the mortgagee or secured party. Court decisions and legislative actions have placed substantial restriction on the right of lenders to enforce the clauses in many states. For instance, the California Supreme Court in August 1978 held that due-on-sale clauses were generally unenforceable. However, the Garn-St Germain Depository Institutions Act of 1982 (the "Garn-St Germain Act"), subject to certain exceptions, preempts state constitutional, statutory and case law prohibiting the enforcement of due-on-sale clauses. As a result, due-on-sale clauses have become generally enforceable except in those states whose legislatures exercised their authority to regulate the enforceability of the clauses with respect to mortgage loans that were (i) originated or assumed during the "window period" under the Garn-St Germain Act which ended in all cases not later than October 15, 1982, and (ii) originated by lenders other than national banks, federal savings institutions and federal credit unions. FHLMC has taken the position in its published mortgage servicing standards that, out of a total of eleven "window period states," five states (Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico and Utah) have enacted statutes extending, on various terms and for varying periods, the prohibition on enforcement of due-on-sale clauses with respect to certain categories of window period loans. Also, the Garn-St Germain Act does "encourage" lenders to permit assumption of loans at the original rate of interest or at some other rate less than the average of the original rate and the market rate.

As to loans secured by an owner-occupied residence, the Garn-St Germain Act sets forth nine specific instances in which a mortgagee covered by the Act may not exercise its rights under a due-on-sale clause, notwithstanding the fact that a transfer of the property may have occurred. The inability to enforce a due-on-sale clause may result in transfer of the related Property to an uncreditworthy person, which could increase the likelihood

of default or may result in a mortgage bearing an interest rate below the current market rate being assumed by a new home buyer, which may affect the average life of the loans and the number of loans which may extend to maturity.

In addition, under federal bankruptcy law, due-on-sale clauses may not be enforceable in bankruptcy proceedings and may, under certain circumstances, be eliminated in any modified mortgage resulting from the bankruptcy proceeding.

### **Enforceability of Prepayment and Late Payment Fees**

Forms of notes, mortgages and deeds of trust used by lenders may contain provisions obligating the borrower to pay a late charge if payments are not timely made, and in some circumstances may provide for prepayment fees or charges if the obligation is paid prior to maturity. In certain states, there are or may be specific limitations upon the late charges which a lender may collect from a borrower for delinquent payments. Certain states also limit the amounts that a lender may collect from a borrower as an additional charge if the loan is prepaid. Under certain state laws, prepayment charges may not be imposed after a certain period of time following the origination of mortgage loans with respect to prepayments on loans secured by liens encumbering owner-occupied residential properties. Since many of the Properties will be owner-occupied, it is anticipated that prepayment charges may not be imposed with respect to many of the loans. The absence of that restraint on prepayment, particularly with respect to fixed rate loans having higher Loan Rates, may increase the likelihood of refinancing or other early retirement of the loans or contracts. Late charges and prepayment fees are typically retained by servicers as additional servicing compensation.

### **Applicability of Usury Laws**

Title V of the Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980, enacted in March 1980 ("Title V") provides that state usury limitations shall not apply to certain types of residential first mortgage loans originated by certain lenders after March 31, 1980. The Office of Thrift Supervision, as successor to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, is authorized to issue rules and regulations and to publish interpretations governing implementation of Title V. The statute authorized the states to reimpose interest rate limits by adopting, before April 1, 1983, a law or constitutional provision which expressly rejects an application of the federal law. Fifteen states adopted a law prior to the April 1, 1983 deadline. In addition, even where Title V is not so rejected, any state is authorized by the law to adopt a provision limiting discount points or other charges on mortgage loans covered by Title V. Certain states have taken action to reimpose interest rate limits and/or to limit discount points or other charges.

### **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**

Generally, under the terms of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (the "Relief Act"), a borrower who enters military service after the origination of the borrower's loan (including a borrower who is a member of the National Guard or is in reserve status at the time of the origination of the loan and is later called to active duty) may not be charged interest above an annual rate of 6% during the period of the borrower's active duty status, unless a court orders otherwise upon application of the lender. It is possible that the interest rate limitation could have an effect, for an indeterminate period of time, on the ability of the master servicer to collect full amounts of interest on certain of the loans. Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, any shortfall in interest collections resulting from the application of the Relief Act could result in losses to securityholders. The Relief Act also imposes limitations which would impair the ability of the master servicer to foreclose on an affected loan during the borrower's period of active duty status. Moreover, the Relief Act permits the extension of a loan's maturity and the re-adjustment of its payment schedule beyond the completion of military service. Thus, in the event that the loan goes into default, there may be delays and losses occasioned by the inability to realize upon the Property in a timely fashion.

### **Other Loan Provisions and Lender Requirements**

The standard form of the mortgage used by most institutional lenders confers on the mortgagee the right both to receive all proceeds collected under any hazard insurance policy and all awards made in connection with

condemnation proceedings, and to apply those proceeds and awards to any indebtedness secured by the mortgage, in the order as the mortgagee may determine. Thus, in the event improvements on the property are damaged or destroyed by fire or other casualty, or in the event the property is taken by condemnation, the mortgagee or beneficiary under senior mortgages will have the prior right to collect any insurance proceeds payable under a hazard insurance policy and any award of damages in connection with the condemnation and to apply the same to the indebtedness secured by the senior mortgages. Proceeds in excess of the amount of senior mortgage indebtedness, in most cases, may be applied to the indebtedness of a junior mortgage. Lenders in California may not require a borrower to provide property insurance for more than the replacement cost of the improvements, even if the loan balance exceeds this amount. In the event of a casualty, lenders may be required to make the insurance proceeds available to the borrower for repair and restoration, rather than applying the proceeds to outstanding indebtedness.

Another provision sometimes found in the form of the mortgage or deed of trust used by institutional lenders obligates the mortgagor to pay before delinquency all taxes and assessments on the property and, when due, all encumbrances, charges and liens on the property which appear prior to the mortgage or deed of trust, to provide and maintain fire insurance on the property, to maintain and repair the property and not to commit or permit any waste thereof, and to appear in and defend any action or proceeding purporting to affect the property or the rights of the mortgagee under the mortgage. Upon a failure of the mortgagor to perform any of these obligations, the mortgagee is given the right under certain mortgages to perform the obligation itself, at its election, with the mortgagor agreeing to reimburse the mortgagee for any sums expended by the mortgagee on behalf of the mortgagor. All sums so expended by the mortgagee become part of the indebtedness secured by the mortgage. In some cases lenders require borrowers to make monthly deposits for estimated real estate taxes and property insurance premiums. Certain states, including California, impose limitations on both the amount of tax and insurance impounds that may be collected from a borrower, and upon the application of the impounded funds.

Generally lenders begin charging interest from the date the loan is disbursed. In California, regulations may prohibit mortgage lenders financing residential purchases from charging interest on loan amounts outstanding for periods more than one day prior to the recording of the deed to the residence, even though the loan proceeds have been disbursed into escrow.

### **Consumer Protection Laws**

Federal, state and local laws extensively regulate various aspects of brokering, originating, servicing and collecting loans secured by consumers' dwellings. Among other things, these laws may regulate interest rates and other charges, require disclosures, impose financial privacy requirements, mandate specific business practices, and prohibit unfair and deceptive trade practices. In addition, licensing requirements may be imposed on persons that broker, originate, service or collect the loans.

Additional requirements may be imposed under federal, state or local laws on so-called "high cost mortgage loans," which typically are defined as loans secured by a consumer's dwelling that have interest rates or origination costs in excess of prescribed levels. These laws may limit certain loan terms, such as prepayment charges, or the ability of a creditor to refinance a loan unless it is in the borrower's interest. In addition, certain of these laws may allow claims against loan brokers or originators, including claims based on fraud or misrepresentations, to be asserted against persons acquiring the loans, such as the trust fund.

The federal laws that may apply to loans held in the trust fund include the following:

- the Truth in Lending Act and its regulations, which (among other things) require disclosures to borrowers regarding the terms of loans and provide consumers who pledged their principal dwelling as collateral in a non-purchase money transaction with a right of rescission that generally extends for three days after proper disclosures are given;
- the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act and its regulations, which (among other things) imposes additional disclosure requirements and limitations on loan terms with respect to non-purchase money,

installment loans secured by the consumer's principal dwelling that have interest rates or origination costs in excess of prescribed levels;

- the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act and its regulations, which (among other things) prohibit the payment of referral fees for real estate settlement services (including mortgage lending and brokerage services) and regulate escrow accounts for taxes and insurance and billing inquiries made by borrowers;
- the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and its regulations, which (among other things) generally prohibits discrimination in any aspect of a credit transaction on certain enumerated basis, such as age, race, color, sex, religion, marital status, national origin or receipt of public assistance;
- the Fair Credit Reporting Act, which (among other things) regulates the use of consumer reports obtained from consumer reporting agencies and the reporting of payment histories to consumer reporting agencies; and
- the Federal Trade Commission's Rule on Preservation of Consumer Claims and Defenses, which generally provides that the rights of an assignee of a conditional sales contract (or of certain lenders making purchase money loans) to enforce a consumer credit obligation are subject to the claims and defenses that the consumer could assert against the seller of goods or services financed in the credit transaction.

The penalties for violating these federal, state, or local laws vary depending on the applicable law and the particular facts of the situation. However, private plaintiffs typically may assert claims for actual damages and, in some cases, also may recover civil money penalties or exercise a right to rescind the loan. Violations of certain laws may limit the ability to collect all or part of the principal or interest on a loan and, in some cases, borrowers even may be entitled to a refund of amounts previously paid. Federal, state and local administrative or law enforcement agencies also may be entitled to bring legal actions, including actions for civil money penalties or restitution, for violations of certain of these laws.

Depending on the particular alleged misconduct, it is possible that claims may be asserted against various participants in secondary market transactions, including assignees that hold the loans, such as the trust fund. Losses on loans from the application of these federal, state and local laws that are not otherwise covered by a credit enhancement will be borne by the holders of one or more classes of securities.

### **Material Federal Income Tax Consequences**

#### **General**

The following is a discussion of the anticipated material federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of the securities and is based on advice of the special counsel to the depositor ("Tax Counsel") named in the prospectus supplement. The discussion is based upon the provisions and interpretations of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), the regulations promulgated thereunder, including, where applicable, proposed regulations, and the judicial and administrative rulings and decisions now in effect, all of which are subject to change, which change can apply retroactively.

The discussion does not address all the aspects of federal income taxation that may affect either particular investors in light of their individual circumstances or certain types of investors subject to special treatment under the Code. It focuses primarily on investors who will hold securities as "capital assets" (generally, property held for investment) within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code, but much of the discussion is applicable to other investors as well. Prospective Investors are encouraged to consult their tax advisers concerning the federal, state, local and any other tax consequences to them of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the securities.

The federal income tax consequences of holding any particular securities will depend on whether

- the securities are classified as indebtedness;

- an election is made to treat the trust fund relating to the securities as a real estate mortgage investment conduit (“REMIC”) under the Code;
- the securities are treated as representing direct ownership of some or all of the assets held by the trust fund relating to those securities (“Pass-Through Securities”); or
- an election is made to treat the trust fund relating to the securities as a partnership.

The prospectus supplement for each series of securities will specify how the securities will be treated for federal income tax purposes and will discuss whether any REMIC elections will be made with respect to the series. The depositor will file with the SEC a Form 8-K on behalf of the related trust fund containing an opinion of Tax Counsel with respect to the validity of the information set forth under “Material Federal Income Tax Consequences” herein and in the related prospectus supplement.

### **Taxation of Debt Securities**

*Interest and Acquisition Discount.* The income on securities representing regular interests in a REMIC (“Regular Interest Securities” and “Regular Interests”) is generally taxable to holders in the same manner as the income on securities classified as indebtedness. Stated interest on Regular Interest Securities will be taxable as ordinary income and taken into account using the accrual method of accounting, regardless of the holder’s normal accounting method. Interest (other than original issue discount) on securities (other than Regular Interest Securities) that are classified as indebtedness will be includible in income by holders in accordance with their usual methods of accounting. Securities classified as indebtedness and Regular Interest Securities are referred to hereinafter collectively as “Debt Securities.”

Certain Debt Securities will, and other Debt Securities may, be issued with “original issue discount” (“OID”). The following discussion is based in part on the rules governing OID, which are set forth in Sections 1271 through 1275 of the Code and the Treasury regulations issued thereunder (the “OID Regulations”). A holder should be aware, however, that the OID Regulations do not adequately address certain issues relevant to prepayable securities, such as the Debt Securities.

In general, OID, if any, will equal the difference between the stated redemption price at maturity of a Debt Security and its issue price. A holder of a Debt Security must include OID in gross income as ordinary interest income as it accrues under a method taking into account an economic accrual of the discount. In general, OID must be included in income in advance of the receipt of the cash representing that income. The amount of OID on a Debt Security will be considered to be zero, however if it is less than a de minimis amount as determined under the Code.

The issue price of a Debt Security is the first price at which a substantial amount of Debt Securities of that class are sold to the public (excluding bond houses, brokers, underwriters or wholesalers). If less than a substantial amount of a particular class of Debt Securities is sold for cash on or prior to the related closing date, the issue price for the class will be the fair market value of the class on the closing date. The issue price of a Debt Security also includes the amount paid by an initial Debt Security holder for accrued interest that relates to a period prior to the issue date of the Debt Security. The stated redemption price at maturity of a Debt Security includes the original principal amount of the Debt Security, but generally will not include distributions of interest if the distributions constitute “qualified stated interest.”

Under the OID Regulations, qualified stated interest generally means interest payable at a single fixed rate or qualified variable rate (as described below) provided that the interest payments are unconditionally payable at intervals of one year or less during the entire term of the Debt Security. The OID Regulations state that interest payments are unconditionally payable only if a late payment or nonpayment is expected to be penalized or reasonable remedies exist to compel payment. Certain Debt Securities may provide for default remedies in the event of late payment or nonpayment of interest. The interest on those Debt Securities will be unconditionally payable and constitute qualified stated interest, not OID. Absent clarification of the OID Regulations, however, if Debt Securities do not provide for default remedies, the interest payments will be included in the Debt Security’s stated redemption price at maturity and taxed as OID. Interest is payable at a single fixed rate only if the rate appropriately



takes into account the length of the interval between payments. If the interval between the issue date and the first distribution date on a Debt Security is longer than the interval between subsequent distribution dates, but the amount of the distribution is not adjusted to reflect the longer interval, then for purposes of determining whether the Debt Security has de minimis OID, the stated redemption price of the Debt Security is treated as the issue price (determined as described above) plus the greater of (i) the amount of the distribution foregone or (ii) the excess (if any) of the Debt Security's stated principal over its issue price. If the interval between the issue date and the first distribution date on a Debt Security is shorter than the interval between subsequent distribution dates, but the amount of the distribution is not adjusted to reflect the shorter interval, then for the purposes of determining the OID, if any, on the Debt Security, the excess amount of the distribution would be added to the Debt Security's stated redemption price.

Under the de minimis rule, OID on a Debt Security will be considered to be zero if the OID is less than 0.25% of the stated redemption price at maturity of the Debt Security multiplied by the weighted average maturity of the Debt Security. The weighted average maturity of a Debt Security is the sum of the weighted maturity of each payment of the Debt Security's stated redemption price. The weighted maturity of each stated redemption price payment is (i) the number of complete years from the issue date until the payment is made, multiplied by (ii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of the payment and the denominator of which is the Debt Security's total stated redemption price.

Although unclear, it appears that the projected payments of stated redemption price on a debt instrument should be based on a schedule that is determined in accordance with the anticipated rate of prepayments assumed in pricing the debt instrument (the "Prepayment Assumption"). Any Prepayment Assumption with respect to a series of Debt Securities will be set forth in the related prospectus supplement. Holders generally must report de minimis OID pro rata as principal payments are received, and that income will be capital gain if the Debt Security is held as a capital asset. Holders may, however, elect to accrue all de minimis OID as well as market discount under a constant interest method.

Debt Securities may provide for interest based on a qualified variable rate. Under the OID Regulations, interest is treated as payable at a qualified variable rate and not as contingent interest if, generally,

- the interest is unconditionally payable at least annually,
- the issue price of the Debt Security does not exceed the total noncontingent principal payments and
- interest is based on a "qualified floating rate," an "objective rate," or a combination of "qualified floating rates" that do not operate in a manner that significantly accelerates or defers interest payments on the Debt Security.

In the case of securities that initially add interest to principal or only make payments of principal ("Compound Interest Securities"), certain securities the payments on which consist solely or primarily of interest payments on underlying mortgages or on other Regular Interest Securities ("Interest Weighted Securities"), and certain of the other Debt Securities, none of the payments under the instrument will be considered qualified stated interest, and thus the aggregate amount of all payments will be included in the stated redemption price.

Regulations governing the calculation of OID on instruments having contingent interest payments do not apply to debt instruments subject to Code Section 1272(a)(6), such as the Debt Securities, and the OID Regulations do not contain provisions specifically interpreting Code Section 1272(a)(6). Until the Treasury issues guidance to the contrary, the trustee intends to base its OID computations on Code Section 1272(a)(6) and the OID Regulations as described in this prospectus. Because no regulatory guidance currently exists under Code Section 1272(a)(6), however, we can give no assurance that the methodology represents the correct manner of calculating OID.

The holder of a Debt Security issued with OID must include in gross income, for all days during its taxable year on which it holds the Debt Security, the sum of the "daily portions" of the original issue discount. The amount of OID includible in income by a holder will be computed by allocating to each day in an accrual period in a taxable year a pro rata portion of the original issue discount that accrued during that day. In the case of a Debt Security that

is not a Regular Interest Security or that is subject to acceleration due to prepayments on the underlying loans, the amount of OID includible in income of a holder for an accrual period will equal the product of the yield to maturity of the Debt Security and the adjusted issue price of the Debt Security, reduced by any payments of qualified stated interest. The adjusted issue price of a Debt Security is the sum of its issue price plus prior accruals of OID, reduced by the total payments other than qualified stated interest payments made with respect to the Debt Security in all prior accrual periods.

The amount of OID included in income by a holder of a debt instrument that is subject to acceleration due to prepayments on other debt obligations securing the instruments (a "Pay-Through Security") is computed by taking into account the Prepayment Assumption. The amount of OID that will accrue during an accrual period on a Pay-Through Security is the excess (if any) of (i) the sum of (a) the present value of all payments remaining to be made on the Pay-Through Security as of the close of the accrual period and (b) the payments during the accrual period of amounts included in the stated redemption price of the Pay-Through Security, over (ii) the adjusted issue price of the Pay-Through Security at the beginning of the accrual period. The present value of the remaining payments is to be determined on the basis of three factors: (i) the original yield to maturity of the Pay-Through Security (determined on the basis of compounding at the end of each accrual period and properly adjusted for the length of the accrual period), (ii) events which have occurred before the end of the accrual period and (iii) the assumption that the remaining payments will be made in accordance with the original Prepayment Assumption. The effect of this method is to increase the portions of OID required to be included in income by a holder to take into account prepayments with respect to the loans at a rate that exceeds the Prepayment Assumption, and to decrease (but not below zero for any period) the portions of original issue discount required to be included in income by a holder of a Pay-Through Security to take into account prepayments with respect to the loans at a rate that is slower than the Prepayment Assumption. Although original issue discount will be reported to holders of Pay-Through Securities based on the Prepayment Assumption, no representation is made to holders that loans will be prepaid at that rate or at any other rate.

The depositor may adjust the accrual of OID on a Class of Regular Interest Securities (or other regular interests in a REMIC) in a manner that it believes to be appropriate, to take account of realized losses on the loans, although the OID Regulations do not provide for those adjustments. If the IRS were to require that OID be accrued without the adjustments, the rate of accrual of OID for a Class of Regular Interest Securities could increase.

Certain classes of Regular Interest Securities may represent more than one class of REMIC regular interests. Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement, the trustee intends, based on the OID Regulations, to calculate OID on those securities as if, solely for the purposes of computing OID, the separate regular interests were a single debt instrument.

A subsequent holder of a Debt Security will also be required to include OID in gross income, but if the holder purchases the Debt Security for an amount that exceeds its adjusted issue price, then the holder will be entitled (as will an initial holder who pays more than a Debt Security's issue price) to offset the OID by comparable economic accruals of the excess.

*Effects of Defaults and Delinquencies.* Holders of a Pay-Through Security will be required to report income with respect to the security under an accrual method without giving effect to delays and reductions in distributions attributable to a default or delinquency on the underlying loans, except possibly to the extent that it can be established that the amounts are uncollectible. As a result, the amount of income (including OID) reported by a holder of such a security in any period could significantly exceed the amount of cash distributed to the holder in that period. The holder will eventually be allowed a loss (or will be allowed to report a lesser amount of income) to the extent that the aggregate amount of distributions on the securities is reduced as a result of a loan default. However, the timing and character of the losses or reductions in income are uncertain and, accordingly, holders of securities are encouraged to consult their tax advisors on this point.

*Interest Weighted Securities.* It is not clear how income should be accrued with respect to Interest Weighted Securities. The Issuer intends to take the position that all of the income derived from an Interest Weighted Security should be treated as OID and that the amount and rate of accrual of the OID should be calculated by treating the Interest Weighted Security as a Compound Interest security. However, in the case of Interest Weighted Securities that are entitled to some payments of principal and that are Regular Interest Securities the IRS

could assert that income derived from an Interest Weighted Security should be calculated as if the security were a security purchased at a premium equal to the excess of the price paid by the holder for the security over its stated principal amount, if any. Under this approach, a holder would be entitled to amortize the premium only if it has in effect an election under Section 171 of the Code with respect to all taxable debt instruments held by the holder, as described below. Alternatively, the IRS could assert that an Interest Weighted Security should be taxable under the rules governing bonds issued with contingent payments. That treatment may be more likely in the case of Interest Weighted Securities that are Stripped Securities as described below. See “— Tax Status as a Grantor Trust — Discount or Premium on Pass-Through Securities.”

*Variable Rate Debt Securities.* In the case of Debt Securities bearing interest at a rate that varies directly, or according to a fixed formula, with an objective index, it appears that (i) the yield to maturity of the Debt Securities and (ii) in the case of Pay-Through Securities, the present value of all payments remaining to be made on the Debt Securities, should be calculated as if the interest index remained at its value as of the issue date of the securities. Because the proper method of adjusting accruals of OID on a variable rate Debt Security is uncertain, holders of variable rate Debt Securities are encouraged to consult their tax advisers regarding the appropriate treatment of the securities for federal income tax purposes.

*Market Discount.* A security may be subject to the market discount rules of Sections 1276 through 1278 of the Code. A holder that acquires a Debt Security with more than a prescribed de minimis amount of “market discount” (generally, the excess of the principal amount of the Debt Security over the purchaser’s purchase price) will be required to include accrued market discount in income as ordinary income in each month, but limited to an amount not exceeding the principal payments on the Debt Security received in that month and, if the securities are sold, the amount of gain realized. Market discount is supposed to be accrued in a manner provided in Treasury regulations but, until the regulations are issued, Congress apparently intended that market discount would generally be accrued either (i) on the basis of a constant yield (in the case of a Pay-Through Security, taking into account a Prepayment Assumption) or (ii) (a) in the case of securities issued without OID (or Pass-Through Securities representing ownership of loans issued without OID), on the basis of the rates of the stated interest payable in the relevant period to total stated interest remaining to be paid at the beginning of the period or (b) in the case of securities issued with OID (or Pass-Through Securities representing ownership of loans issued with OID) on the basis of the rates of the OID in the relevant period to total OID remaining to be paid.

Section 1277 of the Code provides that the excess of interest paid or accrued to purchase or carry a security with market discount (or Pass-Through Security representing ownership of loans with market discount) over interest received on the security is allowed as a current deduction only to the extent the excess is greater than the market discount that accrued during the taxable year in which the interest expense was incurred. In general, the deferred portion of any interest expense will be deductible when the market discount is included in income, including upon the sale, disposition, or repayment of the security (or in the case of a Pass-Through Security, the sale, disposition, or repayment of the Pass-Through Security or an underlying loan). A holder may elect to include market discount in income currently as it accrues, on all market discount obligations acquired by the holder during the taxable year the election is made and thereafter, in which case the interest deferral rule will not apply.

*Premium.* A holder who purchases a Debt Security (other than an Interest Weighted Security to the extent described above) at a cost greater than its stated redemption price at maturity, generally will be considered to have purchased the security at a premium, which it may elect to amortize as an offset to interest income on the security (and not as a separate deduction item) on a constant yield method. Although no regulations addressing the computation of premium accrual on securities similar to the securities have been issued, the legislative history of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 indicates that premium is to be accrued in the same manner as market discount, which would mean using the Prepayment Assumption used in pricing the Debt Security. If a holder makes an election to amortize premium on a Debt Security, the election will apply to all taxable debt instruments (including all REMIC regular interests and all pass-through certificates representing ownership interests in a trust holding debt obligations) held by the holder on the first day of the taxable year for which the election is made, and to all taxable debt instruments acquired thereafter by the holder, and will be revocable only with IRS consent. Purchasers who pay a premium for the securities are encouraged to consult their tax advisers regarding the election to amortize premium and the method to be employed.

The Treasury regulations (the “Bond Premium Regulations”) dealing with amortizable bond premium do not apply to prepayable debt instruments subject to Code Section 1272(a)(6) such as the securities. Absent further guidance from the IRS and Treasury Department, the trustee intends to account for amortizable bond premium in the manner described above. Prospective purchasers of the securities are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible application of the Bond Premium Regulations.

*Election to Treat All Interest as Original Issue Discount.* The OID Regulations permit a holder of a Debt Security to elect to accrue all interest, discount (including de minimis market or original issue discount) and premium in income as interest, based on a constant yield method. If the election were made with respect to a Debt Security with market discount, the holder of the Debt Security would be deemed to have made an election to include in income currently market discount with respect to all other debt instruments having market discount that the holder of the Debt Security acquired on and after the first day of the taxable year for which the election was made. Similarly, if the election were made with respect to a Debt Security that is acquired at a premium, the holder of the Debt Security would be deemed to have made an election to amortize bond premium with respect to all debt instruments having amortizable bond premium that the holder owned and acquired on and after the first day of the taxable year for which the election was made. The election to accrue interest, discount and premium on a constant yield method with respect to a Debt Security is irrevocable without IRS consent.

### **Taxation of the REMIC and Its Holders**

*General.* In the opinion of Tax Counsel, if one or more REMIC elections are made with respect to a series of securities, then the arrangement by which the securities of that series are issued will be treated as one or more REMICs as long as all of the provisions of the applicable Agreement are complied with and the statutory and regulatory requirements are satisfied. Securities will be designated as “Regular Interests” or “Residual Interests” in a REMIC, as specified in the related prospectus supplement. (The phrases “Regular Interests” and “Regular Interest Securities” are used interchangeably).

Except to the extent specified otherwise in a prospectus supplement, if one or more REMIC elections are made with respect to a series of securities, (i) securities held by a domestic building and loan association will constitute “a regular or a residual interest in a REMIC” within the meaning of Code Section 7701(a)(19)(C)(xi) (assuming that at least 95% of the REMIC’s assets consist of cash, government securities, “loans secured by an interest in real property,” and other types of assets described in Code Section 7701(a)(19)(C)); and (ii) securities held by a real estate investment trust will constitute “real estate assets” within the meaning of Code Section 856(c)(5)(B), and income with respect to the securities will be considered “interest on obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property” within the meaning of Code Section 856(c)(3)(B) (assuming, for both purposes, that at least 95% of the REMIC’s assets are qualifying assets). If less than 95% of the REMIC’s assets consist of assets described in (i) or (ii) above, then a security will qualify for the tax treatment described in (i), (ii) or (iii) in the proportion that those REMIC assets (and income in the case of (ii)) are qualifying assets (and income).

### **REMIC Expenses; Single Class REMICs**

As a general rule, all of the expenses of a REMIC will be taken into account by holders of the Residual Interests. In the case of a “single class REMIC,” however, the expenses will be allocated, under Treasury regulations, among the holders of the Regular Interest Securities and the holders of the Residual Interests on a daily basis in proportion to the relative amounts of income accruing to each holder on that day. In the case of a holder of a Regular Interest Security who is an individual or a “pass-through interest holder” (including certain pass-through entities but not including real estate investment trusts), the expenses will be deductible only to the extent that the expenses, plus other “miscellaneous itemized deductions” of the holder, exceed 2% of the holder’s adjusted gross income and are not deductible for purposes of computing the alternative minimum tax. In addition, the amount of itemized deductions otherwise allowable for the taxable year for an individual whose adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable amount (which amount will be adjusted for inflation) will be reduced by the lesser of

- 3% of the excess of adjusted gross income over the applicable amount, or

- 80% of the amount of itemized deductions otherwise allowable for the taxable year.

These percentages are scheduled to be reduced starting in 2006 and return to current levels in 2010. The reduction or disallowance of this deduction may have a significant impact on the yield of the Regular Interest Security to such a holder. In general terms, a single class REMIC is one that either

- would qualify, under existing Treasury regulations, as a grantor trust if it were not a REMIC (treating all interests as ownership interests, even if they would be classified as debt for federal income tax purposes) or
- is similar to such a trust and which is structured with the principal purpose of avoiding the single class REMIC rules.

The applicable prospectus supplement may provide for the allocation of REMIC expenses, but if it does not, the expenses of the REMIC will be allocated to holders of the related Residual Interests.

### **Taxation of the REMIC**

*General.* Although a REMIC is a separate entity for federal income tax purposes, a REMIC is not generally subject to entity-level tax. Rather, the taxable income or net loss of a REMIC is taken into account by the holders of the Residual Interests. As described previously under the caption “Taxation of Debt Securities,” Regular Interests are generally taxable as debt of the REMIC.

*Calculation of REMIC Income.* The taxable income or net loss of a REMIC is determined under an accrual method of accounting and in the same manner as in the case of an individual, with certain adjustments. In general, the taxable income or net loss will be the difference between

- the gross income produced by the REMIC’s assets, including stated interest and any original issue discount or market discount on loans and other assets, and
- deductions, including stated interest and original issue discount accrued on Regular Interest Securities, amortization of any premium with respect to loans, and servicing fees and other expenses of the REMIC.

A holder of a Residual Interest that is an individual or a “pass-through interest holder” (including certain pass-through entities, but not including real estate investment trusts) will be unable to deduct servicing fees payable on the loans or other administrative expenses of the REMIC for a given taxable year, to the extent that the expenses, when aggregated with the holder’s other miscellaneous itemized deductions for that year, do not exceed two percent of the holder’s adjusted gross income.

For purposes of computing its taxable income or net loss, the REMIC should have an initial aggregate tax basis in its assets equal to the aggregate fair market value of the regular interests and the Residual Interests on the Startup Day (generally, the day that the interests are issued). That aggregate basis will be allocated among the assets of the REMIC in proportion to their respective fair market values.

Subject to possible application of the de minimis rules, the method of accrual by the REMIC of OID income on mortgage loans will be equivalent to the method under which holders of Pay-Through Securities accrue original issue discount (that is, under the constant yield method taking into account the Prepayment Assumption). The REMIC will deduct OID on the Regular Interest Securities in the same manner that the holders of the Regular Interest Securities include the discount in income, but without regard to the de minimis rules. See “Taxation of Debt Securities” above. A REMIC that acquires loans at a market discount, however, must include that market discount in income currently, as it accrues, on a constant yield basis.

To the extent that the REMIC’s basis allocable to loans that it holds exceeds their principal amounts, the resulting premium will be amortized over the life of the loans (taking into account the Prepayment Assumption) on a constant yield method.

*Prohibited Transactions and Contributions Tax.* The REMIC will be subject to a 100% tax on any net income derived from a “prohibited transaction.” For this purpose, net income will be calculated without taking into account any losses from prohibited transactions or any deductions attributable to any prohibited transaction that resulted in a loss. In general, and subject to certain exceptions, prohibited transactions include:

- the sale or other disposition by the REMIC of any cash flow investment or qualified mortgage;
- the receipt of any income from assets not permitted to be held by the REMIC under the Code; or
- the receipt of any fees or other compensation for services rendered by the REMIC.

It is anticipated that a REMIC will not engage in any prohibited transactions in which it would recognize a material amount of net income. In addition, subject to a number of exceptions, a tax is imposed at the rate of 100% on amounts contributed to a REMIC after the close of the three-month period beginning on the Startup Day. The holders of Residual Interests will generally be made responsible for the payment of any such taxes imposed on the REMIC. To the extent not paid by the holders or otherwise, however, the taxes will be paid out of the trust fund and will be allocated pro rata to all outstanding classes of securities of the REMIC.

#### **Taxation of Holders of Residual Interests**

The holder of a “Residual Interest” will take into account the “daily portion” of the taxable income or net loss of the REMIC for each day during the taxable year on which the holder held the Residual Interest. The daily portion is determined by allocating to each day in any calendar quarter its ratable portion of the taxable income or net loss of the REMIC for the quarter, and by allocating that amount among the holders (on that day) of the Residual Interests in proportion to their respective holdings on that day. In addition, some of the income reported by the holder of a Residual Interest may not be subject to reduction for net operating losses and other deductions. For this reason, and because the holder of a Residual Interest must report its proportionate share of the REMIC’s taxable income whether or not the holder receives cash distributions from the REMIC, the taxes imposed on the net income attributable to a Residual Interest can substantially exceed the distributions on the interest, resulting in a negative after-tax yield.

*Limitation on Losses.* The amount of the REMIC’s net loss that a holder may take into account currently is limited to the holder’s adjusted basis in the Residual Interest at the end of the calendar quarter in which the loss arises. A holder’s basis in a Residual Interest will initially equal the holder’s purchase price, and will subsequently be increased by the amount of the REMIC’s taxable income allocated to the holder, and decreased (but not below zero) by the amount of distributions made and the amount of the REMIC’s net loss allocated to the holder. Any disallowed loss may be carried forward indefinitely, but may be used only to offset income of the REMIC generated by the same REMIC. The ability of holders of Residual Interests to deduct net losses may be subject to additional limitations under the Code, as to which the holders are encouraged to consult their tax advisers.

*Distributions.* Distributions on a Residual Interest (whether at their scheduled times or as a result of prepayments) will generally not result in any additional taxable income or loss to a holder of a Residual Interest. If the amount of the payment exceeds a holder’s adjusted basis in the Residual Interest, however, the holder will recognize gain (treated as gain from the sale of the Residual Interest) to the extent of the excess.

*Sale or Exchange.* A holder of a Residual Interest will recognize gain or loss on the sale or exchange of a Residual Interest equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized and the holder’s adjusted basis in the Residual Interest at the time of the sale or exchange. Any loss from the sale of a Residual Interest will be subject to the “wash sale” rules of Code Section 1091 if, during the period beginning six months before and ending six months after the sale of the Residual Interest, the seller reacquires the Residual Interest, or acquires (i) a Residual Interest in any other REMIC, (ii) a similar interest in a “taxable mortgage pool” (as defined in Code Section 7701(i)) or (iii) an ownership interest in a FASIT (as defined in Code Section 860L). In general, under the wash sale rules, loss from the Residual Interest will be disallowed and the Residual Interest holder’s basis in the replacement interest will be the basis in the Residual Interest that was sold, decreased or increased, as the case may be, by the difference between the selling price of the Residual Interest and the purchase price of the replacement interest.

*Excess Inclusions.* The portion of the REMIC taxable income of a holder of a Residual Interest consisting of “excess inclusion” income may not be offset by other deductions or losses, including net operating losses, on the holder’s federal income tax return. Further, if the holder of a Residual Interest is an organization subject to the tax on unrelated business income imposed by Code Section 511, the holder’s excess inclusion income will be treated as unrelated business taxable income of the holder. In addition, under Treasury regulations yet to be issued, if a real estate investment trust, a regulated investment company, a common trust fund, or certain cooperatives were to own a Residual Interest, a portion of dividends (or other distributions) paid by the real estate investment trust (or other entity) would be treated as excess inclusion income. If a Residual Interest is owned by a foreign person, excess inclusion income is subject to tax at a rate of 30%, which may not be reduced by treaty, is not eligible for treatment as “portfolio interest” and is subject to certain additional limitations. See “Tax Treatment of Foreign Investors.”

Three special rules apply for determining the effect of excess inclusions on the alternative minimum taxable income of a residual holder. First, alternative minimum taxable income for the residual holder is determined without regard to the rule that taxable income cannot be less than excess inclusions. Second, a residual holder’s alternative minimum taxable income for a tax year cannot be less than excess inclusions for the year. Third, the amount of any alternative minimum tax net operating loss deductions must be computed without regard to any excess inclusions.

In the case of a Residual Interest that has no significant value, the excess inclusion portion of a REMIC’s income is generally equal to all of the REMIC taxable income allocable to the residual holder. In other cases, the excess inclusion portion of a REMIC’s income is generally equal to the excess, if any, of REMIC taxable income for the quarterly period allocable to a Residual Interest, over the daily accruals for the quarterly period of (i) 120% of the long term applicable federal rate on the Startup Day multiplied by (ii) the adjusted issue price of the Residual Interest at the beginning of the quarterly period. The adjusted issue price of a Residual Interest at the beginning of each calendar quarter will equal its issue price (calculated in a manner analogous to the determination of the issue price of a Regular Interest), increased by the aggregate of the daily accruals for prior calendar quarters, and decreased (but not below zero) by the amount of loss allocated to a holder and the amount of distributions made on the Residual Interest before the beginning of the quarter. The long-term federal rate, which is announced monthly by the Treasury Department, is an interest rate that is based on the average market yield of outstanding marketable obligations of the United States government having remaining maturities in excess of nine years.

Under the REMIC Regulations, in certain circumstances, transfers of Residual Interests may be disregarded. See “— Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Residual Interests” and “— Tax Treatment of Foreign Investors” below.

*Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer of Residual Interests.* As a condition to qualification as a REMIC, reasonable arrangements must be made to prevent the ownership of a Residual Interest by any “Disqualified Organization.” Disqualified Organizations include the United States, any State or political subdivision thereof, any foreign government, any international organization, or any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing, a rural electric or telephone cooperative described in Section 1381(a)(2)(C) of the Code, or any entity exempt from the tax imposed by Sections 1 through 1399 of the Code, if the entity is not subject to tax on its unrelated business income. Accordingly, the applicable Pooling and Servicing Agreement will prohibit Disqualified Organizations from owning a Residual Interest. In addition, no transfer of a Residual Interest will be permitted unless the proposed transferee shall have furnished to the trustee an affidavit representing and warranting that it is neither a Disqualified Organization nor an agent or nominee acting on behalf of a Disqualified Organization.

If a Residual Interest is transferred to a Disqualified Organization in violation of the restrictions set forth above, a substantial tax can be imposed on the transferor of the Residual Interest at the time of the transfer. In addition, if a Disqualified Organization holds an interest in a pass-through entity (including, among others, a partnership, trust, real estate investment trust, regulated investment company, or any person holding as nominee), that owns a Residual Interest, the pass-through entity will be required to pay an annual tax on the Disqualified Organization’s pass-through share of the excess inclusion income of the REMIC. If an “electing large partnership” holds a Residual Interest, all interests in the electing large partnership are treated as held by disqualified organizations for purposes of the tax imposed upon a pass-through entity under section 860E(e) of the Code. An exception to this tax, otherwise available to a pass-through entity that is furnished certain affidavits by record

holders of interests in the entity and that does not know the affidavits are false, is not available to an electing large partnership.

*Noneconomic Residual Interests.* The REMIC Regulations disregard, for federal income tax purposes, any transfer of a Noneconomic Residual Interest to a “U.S. Transferee” unless no significant purpose of the transfer is to enable the transferor to impede the assessment or collection of tax. For this purpose, a U.S. Transferee means a U.S. Person as defined under “Certain Federal Income Tax Consequences — Non-REMIC Certificates — Non-U.S. Persons.” A U.S. Transferee also includes foreign entities and individuals (Non-U.S. Persons) but only if their income from the Residual Interest is subject to tax under Code Section 871(b) or Code Section 882 (income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business). If the transfer of a Noneconomic Residual Interest is disregarded, the transferor continues to be treated as the owner of the Residual Interest and continues to be subject to tax on its allocable portion of the net income of the REMIC.

A Residual Interest (including a Residual Interest with a positive value at issuance) is a “Noneconomic Residual Interest” at the time of transfer unless, (i) taking into account the Prepayment Assumption and any required or permitted clean up calls or required liquidation provided for in the REMIC’s organizational documents, the present value of the expected future distributions on the Residual Interest at least equals the product of (A) the present value of the anticipated excess inclusions and (B) the highest corporate income tax rate in effect for the year in which the transfer occurs, and (ii) the transferor reasonably expects that the transferee will receive distributions from the REMIC at or after the time at which taxes accrue on the anticipated excess inclusions in an amount sufficient to satisfy the accrued taxes. A transfer of a Noneconomic Residual Interest has a “significant purpose to impede the assessment or collection of tax” if, at the time of transfer, the transferor either knew or should have known (had “Improper Knowledge”) that the transferee would be unwilling or unable to pay taxes due on its share of the taxable income of the REMIC.

The REMIC Regulations also provide a safe harbor under which the transferor of a Noneconomic Residual Interest is presumed not to have Improper Knowledge at the time of transfer if the following conditions are met: (i) the transferor conducts a reasonable investigation of the financial condition of the transferee, finds that the transferee has historically paid its debts as they came due, and finds no significant evidence to indicate that the transferee will not continue to pay its debts as they come due; (ii) the transferee represents that it understands that as a result of holding the Noneconomic Residual Interest, it may incur tax liabilities in excess of any cash flows generated by the Noneconomic Residual Interest and intends to pay taxes associated with holding the Noneconomic Residual Interest as they become due; (iii) the transferee represents that it will not cause income from the Noneconomic Residual Interest to be attributable to a foreign permanent establishment or fixed base (within the meaning of an applicable income tax treaty) (“Offshore Location”) of the transferee or another U.S. taxpayer; (iv) the transferee is not located in an Offshore Location; and (v) the transferee meets either the Formula Test or the Asset Test.

A transfer of a Noneconomic Residual Interest meets the Formula Test if the present value of the anticipated tax liabilities associated with holding the Residual Interest does not exceed the sum of, (i) the present value of any consideration given to the transferee to acquire the interest; (ii) the present value of the expected future distributions on the interest; and (iii) the present value of the anticipated tax savings associated with holding the interest as the REMIC generates losses. For purposes of the Formula Test the transferee is assumed to pay tax at a rate equal to the highest corporate rate of tax specified in Code Section 11(b)(1). If, however, the transferee has been subject to the alternative minimum tax (“AMT”) under Code Section 55 in the preceding two years and will compute its taxable income in the current taxable year using the AMT rate, then the transferee can assume that it pays tax at the AMT rate specified in Code Section 55(b)(1)(B). Present values are computed using a discount rate equal to the Federal short-term rate prescribed by Code Section 1274(d) for the month of the transfer and the compounding period used by the transferee.

The Asset Test only applies in cases where the transferee is an Eligible Corporation. To be an Eligible Corporation, the transferee must be a taxable domestic C corporation other than a regulated investment company, a real estate investment trust, a REMIC or a cooperative. In addition, regardless of who the transferee may be, the transfer of a Residual Interest to an Offshore Location does not qualify as a transfer to an Eligible Corporation even if the Offshore Location is only a branch of an Eligible Corporation and not a separate legal entity. A transfer of a Noneconomic Residual Interest meets the Asset Test if at the time of the transfer, and at the close of each of the transferee’s two fiscal years preceding the year of transfer, the transferee’s gross assets for financial reporting



purposes exceed \$100 million and its net assets for financial reporting purposes exceed \$10 million. The gross assets and net assets of a transferee do not include any obligation of any person related to the transferee (such as a shareholder, partner, affiliate or sister corporation) or any asset acquired for a principal purpose of satisfying the Asset Test. In addition, the transferee must make a written agreement that any subsequent transfer of the interest will be to another Eligible Corporation in a transaction that satisfies the Asset Test. A transfer fails to meet this requirement if the transferor knows, or has reason to know, that the transferee will not honor the restrictions on subsequent transfers. Finally, the facts and circumstances known to the transferor on or before the date of the transfer must not reasonably indicate that the taxes associated with the Residual Interest will not be paid. The consideration given to the transferee to acquire the non-economic Residual Interest in the REMIC is only one factor to be considered. However, if the amount of consideration is so low that under any set of reasonable assumptions a reasonable person would conclude that the taxes associated with holding the Residual Interest will not be paid, then the transferor is deemed to know that the transferee cannot or will not pay. In determining whether the amount is too low, the specific terms of the Formula Test need not be used.

*Treatment of Inducement Fees.* Regulations require inducement fees to be included in income over a period reasonably related to the period in which the related Residual Interest is expected to generate taxable income or net loss allocable to the holder. The regulations provide two safe harbor methods, which permit transferees to include inducement fees in income either (i) in the same amounts and over the same periods that the taxpayer uses for financial reporting purposes, provided that the period is not shorter than the period the REMIC is expected to generate taxable income or (ii) ratably over the remaining anticipated weighted average life of all the Regular and Residual Interests issued by the REMIC, determined based on actual distributions projected as remaining to be made on the interests under the Prepayment Assumption. If the holder of a Residual Interest sells or otherwise disposes of the Residual Interest, any unrecognized portion of the inducement fee must be taken into account at the time of the sale or disposition. The final regulations also provide that an inducement fee shall be treated as income from sources within the United States. In addition, the IRS has issued administrative guidance addressing the procedures by which transferees of Noneconomic Residual Interests may obtain automatic consent from the IRS to change the method of accounting for REMIC inducement fee income to one of the safe harbor methods provided in these final regulations (including a change from one safe harbor method to the other safe harbor method). Prospective purchasers of the Residual Interests are encouraged to consult with their tax advisors regarding the effect of these final regulations and the related guidance regarding the procedures for obtaining automatic consent to change the method of accounting.

*Mark to Market Rules.* A Residual Interest cannot be marked-to-market.

### **Administrative Matters**

A REMIC's books must be maintained on a calendar year basis and a REMIC must file an annual federal income tax return. Ordinarily, a REMIC will also be subject to the procedural and administrative rules of the Code applicable to partnerships, including the determination of any adjustments to, among other things, items of REMIC income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit, by the IRS in a unified administrative proceeding.

### **Tax Status as a Grantor Trust**

*General.* As specified in the related prospectus supplement if REMIC or partnership elections are not made, in the opinion of Tax Counsel, the trust fund relating to a series of securities will be classified for federal income tax purposes as a grantor trust under Subpart E, Part I of Subchapter J of the Code and not as a corporation (the securities of that series, "Pass-Through Securities"). In some series there will be no separation of the principal and interest payments on the loans. In those circumstances, a holder will be considered to have purchased a pro rata undivided interest in each of the loans. In other cases the Pass-Through Securities will represent disproportionate interests in the principal or interest payable on the underlying loans ("Stripped Securities") and sale of the Stripped Securities to different holders will separate the ownership of such interests.

Each holder must report on its federal income tax return its share of the gross income derived from the loans (not reduced by the amount payable as fees to the trustee and the servicer and similar fees (collectively, the "Servicing Fee")), at the same time and in the same manner as those items would have been reported under the holder's tax accounting method had it held its interest in the loans directly, received directly its share of the amounts

received with respect to the loans, and paid directly its share of the Servicing Fees. In the case of Pass-Through Securities other than Stripped Securities, that income will consist of a pro rata share of all of the income derived from all of the loans and, in the case of Stripped Securities, that income will consist of a pro rata share of the income derived from each stripped bond or stripped coupon in which the holder owns an interest. The holder of a security will generally be entitled to deduct the Servicing Fees under Section 162 or Section 212 of the Code to the extent that the Servicing Fees represent “reasonable” compensation for the services rendered by the trustee and the servicer (or third parties that are compensated for the performance of services). In the case of a noncorporate holder, however, Servicing Fees (to the extent not otherwise disallowed, for example, because they exceed reasonable compensation) will be deductible in computing the holder’s regular tax liability only to the extent that the fees, when added to other miscellaneous itemized deductions, exceed 2% of adjusted gross income and are not deductible in computing the holder’s alternative minimum tax liability. In addition, the amount of itemized deductions otherwise allowable for the taxable year for an individual whose adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable amount (which amount will be adjusted for inflation) will be reduced by the lesser of (i) 3% of the excess of adjusted gross income over the applicable amount or (ii) 80% of the amount of itemized deductions otherwise allowable for the taxable year. (These percentages are scheduled to be reduced in 2006 and return to current levels in 2010).

*Discount or Premium on Pass-Through Securities.* The holder’s purchase price of a Pass-Through Security is to be allocated among the underlying loans in proportion to their fair market values, determined as of the time of purchase of the securities. In the typical case, the trustee (to the extent necessary to fulfill its reporting obligations) will treat each loan as having a fair market value proportional to the share of the aggregate principal balances of all of the loans that it represents, since the securities, generally, will have a relatively uniform interest rate and other common characteristics. To the extent that the portion of the purchase price of a Pass-Through Security allocated to a loan (other than to a right to receive any accrued interest thereon and any undistributed principal payments) is less than or greater than the portion of the principal balance of the loan allocable to the security, the interest in the loan allocable to the Pass-Through Security will be deemed to have been acquired at a discount or premium, respectively.

The treatment of any discount will depend on whether the discount represents OID or market discount. In the case of a loan with OID in excess of a prescribed de minimis amount or a Stripped Security, a holder of a security will be required to report as interest income in each taxable year its share of the amount of OID that accrues during that year in the manner described above. OID with respect to a loan could arise, for example, by virtue of the financing of points by the originator of the loan, or by virtue of the charging of points by the originator of the loan in an amount greater than a statutory de minimis exception. Any market discount or premium on a loan will be includible in income, generally in the manner described above, except that in the case of Pass-Through Securities, market discount is calculated with respect to the loans underlying the security, rather than with respect to the security. A holder that acquires an interest in a loan with more than a de minimis amount of market discount (generally, the excess of the principal amount of the loan over the purchaser’s allocable purchase price) will be required to include accrued market discount in income in the manner set forth above. See “— Taxation of Debt Securities; Market Discount” and “— Premium” above.

The holder generally will be required to allocate the portion of market discount that is allocable to a loan among the principal payments on the loan and to include the discount allocable to each principal payment in ordinary income at the time the principal payment is made. That treatment would generally result in discount being included in income at a different rate than discount would be required to be included in income using the method described in the preceding paragraph.

*Stripped Securities.* A Stripped Security may represent a right to receive only a portion of the interest payments on the loans, a right to receive only principal payments on the loans, or a right to receive certain payments of both interest and principal. Certain Stripped Securities (“Ratio Strip Securities”) may represent a right to receive different percentages of interest and principal on different loans. Under Section 1286 of the Code, the separation of ownership of the right to receive some or all of the interest payments on an obligation from ownership of the right to receive some or all of the principal payments results in the creation of “stripped bonds” with respect to principal payments and “stripped coupons” with respect to interest payments. Section 1286 of the Code applies the OID rules to stripped bonds and stripped coupons. For purposes of computing original issue discount, a stripped bond or a stripped coupon is treated as a debt instrument issued on the date that the stripped interest is purchased with an issue price equal to its purchase price or, if more than one stripped interest is purchased, the ratable share of the purchase price allocable to the stripped interest.

Servicing fees in excess of reasonable servicing fees (“excess servicing”) will be treated under the stripped bond rules. If the excess servicing fee is less than 100 basis points (that is, 1% interest on the loan principal balance) or the securities are initially sold with a de minimis discount (assuming no Prepayment Assumption is required), any non-de minimis discount arising from a subsequent transfer of the securities should be treated as market discount. The IRS appears to require that reasonable servicing fees be calculated on a loan by loan basis, which could result in some loans being treated as having more than 100 basis points of interest stripped off.

The OID Regulations and judicial decisions provide no direct guidance on how the interest and original issue discount rules apply to Stripped Securities and other Pass-Through Securities. Under the method described above for Pay-Through Securities (the “Cash Flow Bond Method”), a Prepayment Assumption is used and periodic recalculations are made which take into account with respect to each accrual period the effect of prepayments during the period. However, the Tax Reform Act of 1986 does not, absent Treasury regulations, appear specifically to cover instruments such as the Stripped Securities, which represent ownership interests in the underlying loans rather than debt instruments “secured by” those loans. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 may allow use of the Cash Flow Bond Method with respect to Stripped Securities and other Pass-Through Securities because it provides that the method applies to any pool of debt instruments the yield on which may be affected by prepayments. Nevertheless, it is believed that the Cash Flow Bond Method is a reasonable method of reporting income for the securities, and it is expected that OID will be reported on that basis; provided that the applicable prospectus supplement may provide for the reporting of OID on an alternative basis. In applying the calculation to Pass-Through Securities, the trustee will treat all payments to be received by a holder with respect to the underlying loans as payments on a single installment obligation. The IRS could, however, assert that original issue discount must be calculated separately for each loan underlying a security.

Under certain circumstances, if the underlying loans prepay at a rate faster than the Prepayment Assumption, the use of the Cash Flow Bond Method may accelerate a holder’s recognition of income. If, however, the loans prepay at a rate slower than the Prepayment Assumption, in some circumstances the use of this method may delay a holder’s recognition of income.

In the case of a Stripped Security that is an Interest Weighted Security, the trustee intends, absent contrary authority, to report income to security holders as OID, in the manner described above for Interest Weighted Securities.

*Possible Alternative Characterizations.* The characterizations of the Stripped Securities described above are not the only possible interpretations of the applicable Code provisions. Among other possibilities, the IRS could contend that

- in certain series, each non-Interest Weighted Security is composed of an unstripped undivided ownership interest in loans and an installment obligation consisting of stripped principal payments;
- the non-Interest Weighted Securities are subject to the contingent payment provisions of the Contingent Regulations; or
- each Interest Weighted Stripped Security is composed of an unstripped undivided ownership interest in loans and an installment obligation consisting of stripped interest payments.

Given the variety of alternatives for treatment of the Stripped Securities and the different federal income tax consequences that result from each alternative, potential purchasers are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the proper treatment of the securities for federal income tax purposes.

*Character as Qualifying Loans.* In the case of Stripped Securities, there is no specific legal authority existing regarding whether the character of the securities, for federal income tax purposes, will be the same as the loans. The IRS could take the position that the loans’ character is not carried over to the securities in those circumstances. Pass-Through Securities will be, and, although the matter is not free from doubt, Stripped Securities should be considered to represent “real estate assets” within the meaning of Section 856(c)(5)(B) of the Code and “loans secured by an interest in real property” within the meaning of Section 7701(a)(19)(C)(v) of the Code; and

interest income attributable to the securities should be considered to represent “interest on obligations secured by mortgages on real property or on interests in real property” within the meaning of Section 856(c)(3)(B) of the Code. Reserves or funds underlying the securities may cause a proportionate reduction in the above-described qualifying status categories of securities.

### **Sale or Exchange**

Subject to the discussion below with respect to trust funds for which a partnership election is made, a holder’s tax basis in its security is the price the holder pays for the security, plus amounts of original issue or market discount included in income and reduced by any payments received (other than qualified stated interest payments) and any amortized premium. Gain or loss recognized on a sale, exchange, or redemption of a security, measured by the difference between the amount realized and the security’s basis as so adjusted, will generally be capital gain or loss, assuming that the security is held as a capital asset. In the case of a security held by a bank, thrift, or similar institution described in Section 582 of the Code, however, gain or loss realized on the sale or exchange of a Regular Interest Security will be taxable as ordinary income or loss. In addition, gain from the disposition of a Regular Interest Security that might otherwise be capital gain will be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the excess, if any, of (i) the amount that would have been includible in the holder’s income if the yield on the Regular Interest Security had equaled 110% of the applicable federal rate as of the beginning of the holder’s holding period, over (ii) the amount of ordinary income actually recognized by the holder with respect to the Regular Interest Security.

### **Miscellaneous Tax Aspects**

*Backup Withholding.* Subject to the discussion below with respect to trust funds for which a partnership election is made, a holder, other than a holder of a Residual Interest, may, under certain circumstances, be subject to “backup withholding” with respect to distributions or the proceeds of a sale of securities to or through brokers that represent interest or original issue discount on the securities. This withholding generally applies if the holder of a security

- fails to furnish the trustee with its taxpayer identification number (“TIN”);
- furnishes the trustee an incorrect TIN;
- fails to report properly interest, dividends or other “reportable payments” as defined in the Code; or
- under certain circumstances, fails to provide the trustee or the holder’s securities broker with a certified statement, signed under penalty of perjury, that the TIN provided is its correct number and that the holder is not subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding will not apply, however, with respect to certain payments made to holders, including payments to certain exempt recipients (such as exempt organizations) and to certain Nonresidents (as defined below). Holders are encouraged to consult their tax advisers as to their qualification for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining the exemption.

The trustee will report to the holders and to the servicer for each calendar year the amount of any “reportable payments” during the year and the amount of tax withheld, if any, with respect to payments on the securities.

### **New Reporting Regulations**

In January 2006 the IRS and Treasury Department finalized new rules concerning the reporting of tax information with respect to “Widely Held Mortgage Trusts.” Under these new rules, the trustee may be compelled, or have an opportunity, to adopt new ways of calculating and reporting tax items (such as OID, market discount, sale proceeds and premium) to the holders of Pass-Through Securities, which changes may affect the timing of when a holder reports those items.

### **Tax Treatment of Foreign Investors**

Subject to the discussion below with respect to trust funds for which a partnership election is made, under the Code, unless interest (including OID) paid on a security (other than a Residual Interest) is considered to be “effectively connected” with a trade or business conducted in the United States by a nonresident alien individual, foreign partnership or foreign corporation (“Nonresidents”), the interest will normally qualify as portfolio interest (except where the recipient is a holder, directly or by attribution, of 10% or more of the capital or profits interest in the issuer, or the recipient is a controlled foreign corporation to which the issuer is a related person) and will be exempt from federal income tax. Upon receipt of appropriate ownership statements, the issuer normally will be relieved of obligations to withhold tax from the interest payments. These provisions supersede the generally applicable provisions of United States law that would otherwise require the issuer to withhold at a 30% rate (unless the rate were reduced or eliminated by an applicable income tax treaty) on, among other things, interest and other fixed or determinable, annual or periodic income paid to Nonresidents.

Interest and OID of holders who are foreign persons are not subject to withholding if they are effectively connected with a United States business conducted by the holder provided the appropriate ownership statements are received. They will, however, generally be subject to the regular United States income tax.

Payments to holders of Residual Interests who are foreign persons will generally be treated as interest for purposes of the 30% (or lower treaty rate) United States withholding tax. Holders should assume that the income does not qualify for exemption from United States withholding tax as “portfolio interest.” It is clear that, to the extent that a payment represents a portion of REMIC taxable income that constitutes excess inclusion income, a holder of a Residual Interest will not be entitled to an exemption from or reduction of the 30% (or lower treaty rate) withholding tax rule. Until recently, excess inclusions allocated to a Nonresident were subject to United States withholding tax only when paid or distributed (or when the Residual Interest was disposed of). The Treasury, however, has exercised its statutory authority to promulgate regulations that require excess inclusions allocated to a Nonresident to be taken into account at an earlier time in order to prevent the avoidance of tax. These new regulations are discussed below. Under other REMIC Regulations, if a Residual Interest has tax avoidance potential, a transfer of a Residual Interest to a Nonresident will be disregarded for all federal tax purposes. A Residual Interest has tax avoidance potential unless, at the time of the transfer the transferor reasonably expects that the REMIC will distribute to the transferee of the Residual Interest amounts that will equal at least 30% of each excess inclusion, and that the amounts will be distributed at or after the time at which the excess inclusions accrue and not later than the calendar year following the calendar year of accrual. If a Nonresident transfers a Residual Interest to a United States person, and if the transfer has the effect of allowing the transferor to avoid tax on accrued excess inclusions, then the transfer is disregarded and the transferor continues to be treated as the owner of the Residual Interest for purposes of the withholding tax provisions of the Code. See “— Excess Inclusions.”

*New Regulations Applicable to REMIC Residuals.* Effective August 1, 2006, Temporary regulations have modified the general rule that excess inclusions from a REMIC residual interest are not includible in the income of a foreign person (or subject to withholding tax) until paid or distributed. The new regulations accelerate the time both for the reporting of and the tax withholding on excess inclusions allocated to the foreign equity holders of partnerships and certain other pass-through entities. The new rules also provide that excess inclusions are United States sourced income. The timing rules apply to a particular residual interest and a particular foreign person, if the first allocation of income from the residual interest to the foreign person occurs after July 31, 2006. The source rules apply for taxable years ending after August 1, 2006.

*Treatment of Partners.* Under the Temporary regulations, in the case of REMIC residual interests held by a foreign person through a partnership, the amount of excess inclusion income allocated to the foreign partner is deemed to be received by the foreign partner on the last day of the partnership’s taxable year except to the extent that the excess inclusion was required to be taken into account by the foreign partner at an earlier time under section 860G(b) as a result of a distribution by the partnership to the foreign partner or a disposition of the foreign partner’s indirect interest in the REMIC residual interest. A disposition in whole or in part of the foreign partner’s indirect interest in the REMIC residual interest may occur as a result of a termination of the REMIC, a disposition of the partnership’s residual interest in the REMIC, a disposition of the foreign partner’s interest in the partnership, or any other reduction in the foreign partner’s allocable share of the portion of the REMIC net income or deduction allocated to the partnership.

*Treatment of Other Pass-Through Holders.* Similarly, in the case of a residual interest held by a foreign person as a shareholder of a real estate investment trust or regulated investment company, as a participant in a common trust fund or as a patron in an organization subject to part I of subchapter T (cooperatives), the amount of excess inclusion allocated to the foreign person must be taken into income at the same time that other income from the trust, the company, the fund, or the organization would be taken into account.

*Withholding Obligations.* Under the Temporary regulations, excess inclusions allocated to a foreign person (whether as a partner or holder of an interest in a pass-through entity) are expressly made subject to withholding tax. In addition, in the case of excess inclusions allocable to a foreign person as a partner, the Temporary regulations eliminate an important exception to the withholding requirements. In general, under the eliminated exception, a withholding agent unrelated to a payee is obligated to withhold on a payment only to the extent that the withholding agent has control over the payee's money or property and knows the facts giving rise to the payment.

### **Tax Characterization of the Trust Fund as a Partnership**

Tax Counsel will deliver its opinion that a trust fund for which a partnership election is made will not be a corporation or publicly traded partnership taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. This opinion will be based on the assumption that the terms of the Trust Agreement and related documents will be complied with, and on counsel's conclusions that the nature of the income of the trust fund will exempt it from the rule that certain publicly traded partnerships are taxable as corporations or the issuance of the securities has been structured as a private placement under an IRS safe harbor, so that the trust fund will not be characterized as a publicly traded partnership taxable as a corporation.

If the trust fund were taxable as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, the trust fund would be subject to corporate income tax on its taxable income. The trust fund's taxable income would include all its income, possibly reduced by its interest expense on the notes. That corporate income tax could materially reduce cash available to make payments on the notes and distributions on the certificates, and certificateholders could be liable for that tax that is unpaid by the trust fund.

### **Tax Consequences to Holders of the Notes**

*Treatment of the Notes as Indebtedness.* The trust fund will agree, and the noteholders will agree by their purchase of notes, to treat the notes as debt for federal income tax purposes. Unless otherwise specified in the related prospectus supplement, in the opinion of Tax Counsel, the notes will be classified as debt for federal income tax purposes. The discussion below assumes this characterization of the notes is correct.

*OID, Indexed Securities, etc.* The discussion below assumes that all payments on the notes are denominated in U.S. dollars, and that the notes are not Indexed securities or Strip notes. Moreover, the discussion assumes that the interest formula for the notes meets the requirements for "qualified stated interest" under the OID regulations, and that any OID on the notes (that is, any excess of the principal amount of the notes over their issue price) is less than a de minimis amount (that is, 0.25% of their principal amount multiplied by the number of full years included in their term), all within the meaning of the OID regulations. If these conditions are not satisfied with respect to any given series of notes, additional tax considerations with respect to the notes will be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

*Interest Income on the Notes.* Based on the above assumptions, except as discussed in the following paragraph, the notes will not be considered issued with OID. The stated interest thereon will be taxable to a noteholder as ordinary interest income when received or accrued in accordance with the noteholder's method of tax accounting. Under the OID regulations, a holder of a note issued with a de minimis amount of OID must include the OID in income, on a pro rata basis, as principal payments are made on the note. A purchaser who buys a note for more or less than its principal amount will generally be subject, respectively, to the premium amortization or market discount rules of the Code.

A holder of a note that has a fixed maturity date of not more than one year from the issue date of the note (a "Short-Term Note") may be subject to special rules. An accrual basis holder of a Short-Term Note (and certain cash

method holders, including regulated investment companies, as set forth in Section 1281 of the Code) generally would be required to report interest income as interest accrues on a straight-line basis over the term of each interest period. Other cash basis holders of a Short-Term Note would, in general, be required to report interest income as interest is paid (or, if earlier, upon the taxable disposition of the Short-Term Note). However, a cash basis holder of a Short-Term Note reporting interest income as it is paid may be required to defer a portion of any interest expense otherwise deductible on indebtedness incurred to purchase or carry the Short-Term Note until the taxable disposition of the Short-Term Note. A cash basis taxpayer may elect under Section 1281 of the Code to accrue interest income on all nongovernment debt obligations with a term of one year or less, in which case the taxpayer would include interest on the Short-Term Note in income as it accrues, but would not be subject to the interest expense deferral rule referred to in the preceding sentence. Certain special rules apply if a Short-Term Note is purchased for more or less than its principal amount.

*Sale or Other Disposition.* If a noteholder sells a note, the holder will recognize gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale and the holder's adjusted tax basis in the note. The adjusted tax basis of a note to a particular noteholder will equal the holder's cost for the note, increased by any market discount, acquisition discount, OID and gain previously included by the noteholder in income with respect to the note and decreased by the amount of bond premium (if any) previously amortized and by the amount of principal payments previously received by the noteholder with respect to the note. That gain or loss will be capital gain or loss if the note was held as a capital asset, except for gain representing accrued interest and accrued market discount not previously included in income. Capital losses generally may be used only to offset capital gains.

*Foreign Holders.* Interest payments made (or accrued) to a noteholder who is a nonresident alien, foreign corporation or other non-United States person (a "foreign person") generally will be considered "portfolio interest," and generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax and withholding tax, if the interest is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by the foreign person and the foreign person

- is not actually or constructively a "10 percent shareholder" of the trust fund or the seller (including a holder of 10% of the outstanding securities) or a "controlled foreign corporation" with respect to which the trust fund or the seller is a "related person" within the meaning of the Code and
- provides the owner trustee or other person who is otherwise required to withhold U.S. tax with respect to the notes (the "Withholding Agent") with an appropriate statement, signed under penalties of perjury, certifying that the beneficial owner of the note is an individual or corporation for federal income tax purposes and a foreign person and providing the foreign person's name and address.

Generally, this statement is made on an IRS Form W-8BEN ("W-8BEN"), which is effective for the remainder of the year of signature plus three full calendar years unless a change in circumstances makes any information on the form incorrect. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a W-8BEN with a U.S. taxpayer identification number will remain effective until a change in circumstances makes any information on the form incorrect, provided that the Withholding Agent reports at least one payment annually to the beneficial owner on IRS Form 1042-S. The beneficial owner must inform the Withholding Agent within 30 days of any change and furnish a new W-8BEN. A noteholder who is not an individual or corporation (or an entity treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes) holding the Notes on its own behalf may have substantially increased reporting requirements. In particular, in the case of notes held by a foreign partnership (or foreign trust), the partners (or beneficiaries) rather than the partnership (or trust) will be required to provide the certification discussed above, and the partnership (or trust) will be required to provide certain additional information.

If a note is held through a securities clearing organization or certain other financial institutions, the organization or institution may provide the relevant signed statement to the withholding agent; in that case, however, the signed statement must be accompanied by a Form W-8BEN or substitute form provided by the foreign person that owns the note. If the interest is not portfolio interest, then it will be subject to United States federal income and withholding tax at a rate of 30 percent, unless reduced or eliminated pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty.

Any capital gain realized on the sale, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a note by a foreign person will be exempt from United States federal income and withholding tax, provided that the gain is not effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States by the foreign person and in the case of an individual foreign person, the foreign person is not present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year.

*Backup Withholding.* Each holder of a note (other than an exempt holder such as a corporation, tax-exempt organization, qualified pension and profit-sharing trust, individual retirement account or nonresident alien who provides certification as to status as a nonresident) will be required to provide, under penalties of perjury, a certificate containing the holder's name, address, correct federal taxpayer identification number and a statement that the holder is not subject to backup withholding. Should a nonexempt noteholder fail to provide the required certification, the trust fund will be required to withhold on the amount otherwise payable to the holder, and remit the withheld amount to the IRS as a credit against the holder's federal income tax liability.

*Possible Alternative Treatments of the Notes.* If, contrary to the opinion of Tax Counsel, the IRS successfully asserted that one or more of the notes did not represent debt for federal income tax purposes, the notes might be treated as equity interests in the trust fund. If so treated, the trust fund might be taxable as a corporation with the adverse consequences described above (and the taxable corporation would not be able to reduce its taxable income by deductions for interest expense on notes recharacterized as equity). Alternatively, and most likely in the view of special counsel to the depositor, the trust fund might be treated as a publicly traded partnership that would not be taxable as a corporation because it would meet certain qualifying income tests. Nonetheless, treatment of the notes as equity interests in that publicly traded partnership could have adverse tax consequences to certain holders. For example, income to certain tax-exempt entities (including pension funds) would be "unrelated business taxable income," and income to foreign holders generally would be subject to U.S. tax and U.S. tax return filing and withholding requirements, and individual holders might be subject to certain limitations on their ability to deduct their share of the trust fund's expenses.

### **Tax Consequences to Holders of the Certificates**

*Treatment of the Trust Fund as a Partnership.* The trust fund and the master servicer will agree, and the certificateholders will agree by their purchase of certificates, to treat the trust fund as a partnership for purposes of federal and state income tax, franchise tax and any other tax measured in whole or in part by income, with the assets of the partnership being the assets held by the trust fund, the partners of the partnership being the certificateholders, and the notes being debt of the partnership. However, the proper characterization of the arrangement involving the trust fund, the certificates, the notes, the trust fund and the servicer is not clear because there is no authority on transactions closely comparable to that contemplated herein.

A variety of alternative characterizations are possible. For example, because the certificates have certain features characteristic of debt, the certificates might be considered debt of the trust fund. That characterization would not result in materially adverse tax consequences to certificateholders as compared to the consequences from treatment of the certificates as equity in a partnership, described below. The following discussion assumes that the certificates represent equity interests in a partnership.

*Indexed Securities, etc.* The following discussion assumes that all payments on the certificates are denominated in U.S. dollars, none of the certificates are Indexed securities or Strip certificates, and that a series of securities includes a single class of certificates. If these conditions are not satisfied with respect to any given series of certificates, additional tax considerations with respect to the certificates will be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

*Partnership Taxation.* As a partnership, the trust fund will not be subject to federal income tax. Rather, each certificateholder will be required to separately take into account the holder's distributive share of income, gains, losses, deductions and credits of the trust fund. The trust fund's income will consist primarily of interest and finance charges earned on the loans (including appropriate adjustments for market discount, OID and bond premium) and any gain upon collection or disposition of loans. The trust fund's deductions will consist primarily of interest accruing with respect to the notes, servicing and other fees, and losses or deductions upon collection or disposition of loans.



The tax items of a partnership are allocable to the partners in accordance with the Code, Treasury regulations and the partnership agreement (here, the Trust Agreement and related documents). The Trust Agreement will provide, in general, that the certificateholders will be allocated taxable income of the trust fund for each month equal to the sum of (i) the interest that accrues on the certificates in accordance with their terms for that month, including interest accruing at the Pass-Through Rate for the month and interest on amounts previously due on the certificates but not yet distributed; (ii) any trust fund income attributable to discount on the Loans that corresponds to any excess of the principal amount of the certificates over their initial issue price; (iii) prepayment premium payable to the certificateholders for the month; and (iv) any other amounts of income payable to the certificateholders for the month. That allocation will be reduced by any amortization by the trust fund of premium on loans that corresponds to any excess of the issue price of certificates over their principal amount. All remaining taxable income of the trust fund will be allocated to the depositor. Based on the economic arrangement of the parties, this approach for allocating trust fund income should be permissible under applicable Treasury regulations, although we can give no assurance that the IRS would not require a greater amount of income to be allocated to certificateholders. Moreover, even under the foregoing method of allocation, certificateholders may be allocated income equal to the entire Pass-Through Rate plus the other items described above even though the trust fund might not have sufficient cash to make current cash distributions of that amount. Thus, cash basis holders will in effect be required to report income from the certificates on the accrual basis and certificateholders may become liable for taxes on trust fund income even if they have not received cash from the trust fund to pay those taxes. In addition, because tax allocations and tax reporting will be done on a uniform basis for all certificateholders but certificateholders may be purchasing certificates at different times and at different prices, certificateholders may be required to report on their tax returns taxable income that is greater or less than the amount reported to them by the trust fund.

All of the taxable income allocated to a certificateholder that is a pension, profit sharing or employee benefit plan or other tax-exempt entity (including an individual retirement account) will constitute “unrelated business taxable income” generally taxable to that holder under the Code.

An individual taxpayer’s share of expenses of the trust fund (including fees to the servicer but not interest expense) would be miscellaneous itemized deductions. Those deductions might be disallowed to the individual in whole or in part and might result in the holder being taxed on an amount of income that exceeds the amount of cash actually distributed to the holder over the life of the trust fund.

The trust fund intends to make all tax calculations relating to income and allocations to certificateholders on an aggregate basis. If the IRS were to require that those calculations be made separately for each loan, the trust fund might be required to incur additional expense but it is believed that there would not be a material adverse effect on certificateholders.

*Discount and Premium.* If the loans are not issued with OID, then the trust fund should not have OID income. However, the purchase price paid by the trust fund for the loans may be greater or less than the remaining principal balance of the loans at the time of purchase. If so, the loan will have been acquired at a premium or discount, as the case may be. (As indicated above, the trust fund will make this calculation on an aggregate basis, but might be required to recompute it on a loan by loan basis.)

If the trust fund acquires the loans at a market discount or premium, the trust fund will elect to include that discount in income currently as it accrues over the life of the loans or to offset that premium against interest income on the loans. As indicated above, a portion of the market discount income or premium deduction may be allocated to certificateholders.

*Section 708 Termination.* Pursuant to Code Section 708, a sale or exchange of 50% or more of the capital and profits in a partnership would cause a deemed contribution of assets of the partnership (the “old partnership”) to a new partnership (the “new partnership”) in exchange for interests in the new partnership. Those interests would be deemed distributed to the partners of the old partnership in liquidation thereof, which would not constitute a sale or exchange. Accordingly, if the trust fund were characterized as a partnership, then even if a sale of certificates terminated the partnership under Code Section 708, the holder’s basis in its certificates would remain the same.

*Disposition of Certificates.* Generally, capital gain or loss will be recognized on a sale of certificates in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the seller's tax basis in the certificates sold. A certificateholder's tax basis in a certificate will generally equal the holder's cost increased by the holder's share of trust fund income (includible in income) and decreased by any distributions received with respect to that certificate. In addition, both the tax basis in the certificates and the amount realized on a sale of a certificate would include the holder's share of the notes and other liabilities of the trust fund. A holder acquiring certificates at different prices may be required to maintain a single aggregate adjusted tax basis in the certificates, and, upon sale or other disposition of some of the certificates, allocate a portion of that aggregate tax basis to the certificates sold (rather than maintaining a separate tax basis in each certificate for purposes of computing gain or loss on a sale of that certificate).

Any gain on the sale of a certificate attributable to the holder's share of unrecognized accrued market discount on the loans would generally be treated as ordinary income to the holder and would give rise to special tax reporting requirements. The trust fund does not expect to have any other assets that would give rise to those special reporting requirements. Thus, to avoid those special reporting requirements, the trust fund will elect to include market discount in income as it accrues.

If a certificateholder is required to recognize an aggregate amount of income (not including income attributable to disallowed itemized deductions described above) over the life of the certificates that exceeds the aggregate cash distributions with respect thereto, that excess will generally give rise to a capital loss upon the retirement of the certificates.

*Allocations Among Transferors and Transferees.* In general, the trust fund's taxable income and losses will be determined monthly and the tax items for a particular calendar month will be apportioned among the certificateholders in proportion to the principal amount of certificates owned by them as of the close of the last day of that month. As a result, a holder purchasing certificates may be allocated tax items (which will affect its tax liability and tax basis) attributable to periods before the actual transaction.

The use of a monthly convention may not be permitted by existing regulations. If a monthly convention is not allowed (or only applies to transfers of less than all of the partner's interest), taxable income or losses of the trust fund might be reallocated among the certificateholders. The trust fund's method of allocation between transferors and transferees may be revised to conform to a method permitted by future regulations.

*Section 754 Election.* In the event that a certificateholder sells its certificates at a profit (loss), the purchasing certificateholder will have a higher (lower) basis in the certificates than the selling certificateholder had. The tax basis of the trust fund's assets will not be adjusted to reflect that higher (or lower) basis unless the trust fund were to file an election under Section 754 of the Code. In order to avoid the administrative complexities that would be involved in keeping accurate accounting records, as well as potentially onerous information reporting requirements, the trust fund will not make that election. As a result, certificateholders might be allocated a greater or lesser amount of trust fund income than would be appropriate based on their own purchase price for certificates.

*Administrative Matters.* The owner trustee is required to keep or have kept complete and accurate books of the trust fund. Those books will be maintained for financial reporting and tax purposes on an accrual basis and the fiscal year of the trust fund will be the calendar year. The trustee will file a partnership information return (IRS Form 1065) with the IRS for each taxable year of the trust fund and will report each certificateholder's allocable share of items of trust fund income and expense to holders and the IRS on Schedule K-1. The trust fund will provide the Schedule K-1 information to nominees that fail to provide the trust fund with the information statement described below and those nominees will be required to forward that information to the beneficial owners of the certificates. Generally, holders must file tax returns that are consistent with the information return filed by the trust fund or be subject to penalties unless the holder notifies the IRS of all those inconsistencies.

Under Section 6031 of the Code, any person that holds certificates as a nominee at any time during a calendar year is required to furnish the trust fund with a statement containing certain information on the nominee, the beneficial owners and the certificates so held. That information includes (i) the name, address and taxpayer identification number of the nominee and (ii) as to each beneficial owner (x) the name, address and identification number of the person, (y) whether the person is a United States person, a tax-exempt entity or a foreign government,

an international organization, or any wholly owned agency or instrumentality of either of the foregoing, and (z) certain information on certificates that were held, bought or sold on behalf of the person throughout the year. In addition, brokers and financial institutions that hold certificates through a nominee are required to furnish directly to the trust fund information as to themselves and their ownership of certificates. A clearing agency registered under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended is not required to furnish that information statement to the trust fund. The information referred to above for any calendar year must be furnished to the trust fund on or before the following January 31. Nominees, brokers and financial institutions that fail to provide the trust fund with the information described above may be subject to penalties.

The depositor will be designated as the tax matters partner in the related Trust Agreement and, as such, will be responsible for representing the certificateholders in any dispute with the IRS. The Code provides for administrative examination of a partnership as if the partnership were a separate and distinct taxpayer. Generally, the statute of limitations for partnership items does not expire before three years after the date on which the partnership information return is filed. Any adverse determination following an audit of the return of the trust fund by the appropriate taxing authorities could result in an adjustment of the returns of the certificateholders, and, under certain circumstances, a certificateholder may be precluded from separately litigating a proposed adjustment to the items of the trust fund. An adjustment could also result in an audit of a certificateholder's returns and adjustments of items not related to the income and losses of the trust fund.

*Tax Consequences to Foreign Certificateholders.* It is not clear whether the trust fund would be considered to be engaged in a trade or business in the United States for purposes of federal withholding taxes with respect to non-U.S. Persons because there is no clear authority dealing with that issue under facts substantially similar to those described herein. Although it is not expected that the trust fund would be engaged in a trade or business in the United States for those purposes, the trust fund will withhold as if it were so engaged in order to protect the trust fund from possible adverse consequences of a failure to withhold. The trust fund expects to withhold on the portion of its taxable income, as calculated for this purpose which may exceed the distributions to certificateholders, that is allocable to foreign certificateholders pursuant to Section 1446 of the Code, as if the income were effectively connected to a U.S. trade or business. Subsequent adoption of Treasury regulations or the issuance of other administrative pronouncements may require the trust fund to change its withholding procedures. In determining a holder's withholding status, the trust fund may rely on IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-9 or the holder's certification of nonforeign status signed under penalties of perjury. A holder who is not an individual or corporation (or an entity treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes) holding the Notes on its own behalf may have substantially increased reporting requirements. In particular, if the holder is a foreign partnership (or foreign trust), the partners (or beneficiaries) rather than the partnership (or trust) will be required to provide the certification discussed above, and the partnership (or trust) will be required to provide certain additional information.

Each foreign holder might be required to file a U.S. individual or corporate income tax return (including, in the case of a corporation, the branch profits tax) on its share of the trust fund's income. Each foreign holder must obtain a taxpayer identification number from the IRS and submit that number in order to assure appropriate crediting of the taxes withheld. A foreign holder generally would be entitled to file with the IRS a claim for refund with respect to taxes withheld by the trust fund taking the position that no taxes were due because the trust fund was not engaged in a U.S. trade or business. However, interest payments made (or accrued) to a certificateholder who is a foreign person generally will be considered guaranteed payments to the extent the payments are determined without regard to the income of the trust fund. If these interest payments are properly characterized as guaranteed payments, then the interest will not be considered "portfolio interest." As a result, certificateholders will be subject to United States federal income tax and withholding tax at a rate of 30 percent, unless reduced or eliminated pursuant to an applicable treaty. In that case, a foreign holder would only be entitled to claim a refund for that portion of the taxes in excess of the taxes that should be withheld with respect to the guaranteed payments.

*Backup Withholding.* Distributions made on the certificates and proceeds from the sale of the certificates will be subject to a "backup" withholding tax if, in general, the certificateholder fails to comply with certain identification procedures, unless the holder is an exempt recipient under applicable provisions of the Code.

### **Taxation of Classes of Exchangeable Securities**

*General.* For United States federal income tax purposes, the arrangement established to hold the depositable securities will be classified as a trust (the “ES Trust”) and the holders of the exchangeable securities will be treated as owning under Section 671 of the Code the interests in the depositable securities that underly their exchangeable securities.

If the interests in the depositable securities underlying an exchangeable security can be traded separately before deposit to, and after withdrawal from, the ES Trust, then the interests in each depositable security underlying the exchangeable security will be accounted for separately and will have the same consequences to the holder of the exchangeable security as if such interests in the underlying, depositable security were held outside the ES Trust as described earlier. Except as discussed below under “—Alternative Tax Consequences,” the remaining discussion is based on the assumption that each interest in a depositable security underlying an exchangeable security can otherwise be separately traded before deposit to, and after withdrawal from, the ES Trust.

*Acquisition and Disposition.* No gain or loss will be realized upon depositing in the ES Trust the depositable securities underlying an exchangeable security. Regardless of the value of the exchangeable security, at the time of deposit, each underlying depositable security will have the same basis as it did immediately before the deposit (that is, each depositable security will have a separate basis for federal income tax purposes, based on its acquisition cost, adjusted as necessary for accruals of discount and premium and payments on the depositable security). If more than one underlying depositable security is acquired at the same time (including by acquiring an exchangeable security), then the initial cost of the depositable securities must be determined by apportioning the aggregate cost for the depositable securities (or the cost of the exchangeable security) among the individual depositable securities based on their relative fair market values on the acquisition date.

No gain or loss will be realized upon withdrawing the depositable securities underlying an exchangeable security from the ES Trust. Regardless of the value of the exchangeable security at the time of withdrawal, each depositable security will have the same separate basis as it did immediately before the withdrawal. If more than one underlying depositable security is disposed of at the same time (including by disposing of an exchangeable security) such as through sale or exchange, then the amount realized from the sale or exchange of each depositable security will be determined by apportioning the aggregate sales proceeds from the depositable securities (or the sales proceeds from the exchangeable security) among the individual depositable securities based on their relative fair market values on the disposition date.

*Alternative Tax Consequences.* If an exchangeable security represents an interest in an underlying depositable security of a type that cannot be separately traded before the underlying depositable security is deposited to, or after it is withdrawn from, the ES Trust and if such interest represents disproportionate ownership of the principal and interest payable on the underlying depositable security, then the exchangeable security may be subject to special income tax consequences. Specifically, if the depositor of the underlying depositable security separately disposes of such exchangeable security, then the depositor will be stripping the underlying “bond.” In that case, the sale of the exchangeable security and its treatment in the hands of the new holder will be governed by Section 1286 of the Code. In general, the exchangeable security will be treated as representing beneficial ownership of a newly issued discount bond. If an exchangeable security is subject to treatment as a “stripped bond” or “stripped coupon” under Section 1286 of the Code, then the consequences will also be discussed in the prospectus supplement. Investors are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the consequences of stripping a bond and owning a stripped bond or stripped coupon.

### **Other Tax Considerations**

In addition to the federal income tax consequences described in “Federal Income Tax Consequences,” potential investors should consider the state, local and foreign tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, and disposition of the securities. State and local tax law may differ substantially from the corresponding federal law, and this discussion does not purport to describe any aspect of the tax laws of any state or locality. Therefore, potential investors are encouraged to consult their own tax advisors with respect to the various state, local and foreign tax consequences of an investment in the securities.

### **ERISA Considerations**

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”), and Section 4975 of the Code impose requirements on employee benefit plans (and on certain other retirement plans and arrangements, including individual retirement accounts and annuities and Keogh plans as well as collective investment funds and separate accounts in which those plans, accounts or arrangements are invested) (collectively, “Plans”) subject to ERISA or to Section 4975 of the Code and on persons who bear specified relationships to Plans (“Parties in Interest”) or are fiduciaries with respect to those Plans. Generally, ERISA applies to investments made by Plans. Among other things, ERISA requires that the assets of Plans be held in trust and that the trustee, or other duly authorized fiduciary, have exclusive authority and discretion to manage and control the assets of Plans. ERISA also imposes certain duties on persons who are fiduciaries of Plans. Under ERISA, any person who exercises any authority or control respecting the management or disposition of the assets of a Plan is considered to be a fiduciary of the Plan (subject to certain exceptions not here relevant). Certain employee benefit plans, such as governmental plans (as defined in ERISA Section 3(32)) and, if no election has been made under Section 410(d) of the Code, church plans (as defined in ERISA Section 3(33)), are not subject to requirements imposed by ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code. Accordingly, assets of those plans may be invested in securities without regard to the considerations described above and below, subject to the provisions of other applicable law. Any plan which is qualified and exempt from taxation under Code Sections 401(a) and 501(a) is subject to the prohibited transaction rules set forth in Code Section 503.

On November 13, 1986, the United States Department of Labor (the “DOL”) issued final regulations concerning the definition of what constitutes the assets of a Plan. (Labor Reg. Section 2510.3-101 (the “Plan Assets Regulation”). Under this regulation, the underlying assets and properties of corporations, partnerships and certain other entities in which a Plan makes an “equity” investment could be deemed for purposes of ERISA to be assets of the investing Plan in certain circumstances. Under the Plan Assets Regulation, the term “equity interest” is defined as any interest in an entity other than an instrument that is treated as indebtedness under applicable local law and has no “substantial equity features.” If securities are not treated as equity interests in the issuer for purposes of the Plan Assets Regulation, a Plan’s investment in the securities would not cause the assets of the issuer to be deemed plan assets. If the securities are deemed to be equity interests in the issuer, the issuer could be considered to hold plan assets because of a Plan’s investment in those securities. In that event, the master servicer and other persons exercising management or discretionary control over the assets of the issuer or providing services with respect to those assets could be deemed to be fiduciaries or other parties in interest with respect to investing Plans and thus subject to the prohibited transaction provisions of Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code and, in the case of fiduciaries, to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of Title I of ERISA, with respect to transactions involving the issuer’s assets. Trust certificates are “equity interests” for purposes of the Plan Asset Regulation.

In addition to the imposition of general fiduciary standards of investment prudence and diversification, ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit a broad range of transactions involving assets of a Plan and persons (“Parties in Interest”) having certain specified relationships to a Plan and impose additional prohibitions where Parties in Interest are fiduciaries with respect to that Plan. Because the loans may be deemed assets of each Plan that purchases equity securities, an investment in equity securities by a Plan might be a prohibited transaction under ERISA Sections 406 and 407 and subject to an excise tax under Code Section 4975 unless a statutory, regulatory or administrative exemption applies.

Without regard to whether securities are considered to be equity interest in the issuer, certain affiliates of the issuer might be considered or might become Parties in Interest with respect to a Plan. In this case, the acquisition or holding of the securities by or on behalf of the Plan could constitute or give rise to a prohibited transaction, within the meaning of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code, unless they were subject to one or more exemptions. Depending on the relevant facts and circumstances, certain prohibited transaction exemptions may apply to the purchase or holding of the securities — for example, Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption (“PTCE”) 96-23, which exempts certain transactions effected on behalf of a Plan by an “in-house asset manager”; PTCE 95-60, which exempts certain transactions by insurance company general accounts; PTCE 91-38, which exempts certain transactions by bank collective investment funds; PTCE 90-1, which exempts certain transactions by insurance company pooled separate accounts; or PTCE 84-14, which exempts certain transactions effected on behalf of a Plan by a “qualified professional asset manager”. We can give no assurance that any of these exemptions will apply with respect to any Plan’s investment in securities, or that such an exemption, if it did apply, would apply to all

prohibited transactions that may occur in connection with the investment. Furthermore, these exemptions generally do not expressly address transactions incidental to the operation of the trust. You should consult with your advisors regarding the specific scope, terms and conditions of an exemption as it applies to you, as an investor, before relying on that exemption's availability.

The DOL has granted to certain underwriters individual administrative exemptions (the "Underwriter Exemptions") from certain of the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA and the related excise tax provisions of Section 4975 of the Code with respect to the initial purchase, the holding and the subsequent resale by Plans of securities, including certificates, underwritten or privately placed by that underwriter or its affiliate or by a syndicate managed by that underwriter or its affiliate and issued by entities that hold investment pools consisting of certain secured receivables, loans and other obligations and the servicing, operation and management of the investment pools, provided the conditions and requirements of the Underwriter Exemptions are met. The Underwriter Exemptions also permits the entity to hold an interest-rate swap or yield supplement agreement if it meets requirements set forth in the Underwriter Exemptions.

The entity may hold an interest-rate swap (a "swap" or "swap agreement") if the swap: (a) is an "eligible swap"; (b) is with a bank or other financial institution that meets certain rating requirements (an "eligible counterparty"); (c) meets certain additional specific conditions concerning the consequences if the rating of the counterparty is reduced or withdrawn, which conditions depend on whether the ratings of the securities to which the swap applies are dependent on the swap and (d) permits the trust to make termination payments to the swap counterparty (other than currently scheduled payments) solely from excess spread or amounts otherwise payable to the servicer, depositor or seller. Any class of securities to which one or more swap agreements applies may be acquired and held in reliance upon the Underwriter Exemptions only by a "qualified plan investor."

An "eligible swap" is one which: (a) is denominated in U.S. dollars; (b) pursuant to which the trust pays or receives, on or immediately prior to the respective payment or distribution date for the class of securities to which the swap relates, a fixed rate of interest or a floating rate of interest based on a publicly available index (e.g., LIBOR or the U.S. Federal Reserve's Cost of Funds Index (COFI)), with the trust receiving such payments on at least a quarterly basis and obligated to make separate payments no more frequently than the counterparty, with all simultaneous payments being netted ("allowable interest rate"); (c) has a notional amount that does not exceed either: (i) the Class Security Balance of the class of securities to which the swap relates, or (ii) the portion of the Class Security Balance of such class represented by obligations ("allowable notional amount"); (d) is not "leveraged" (i.e., payments are based on the applicable notional amount, the day count fractions, the fixed or floating rates permitted above, and the difference between the products thereof, calculated on a one-to-one ratio and not on a multiplier of such difference); (e) has a final termination date that is either the earlier of the date on which the issuer terminates or the related class of securities are fully repaid and (f) does not incorporate any provision which could cause a unilateral alteration in the requirements described in (a) through (d) above.

A "qualified plan investor" is a plan for which the decision to buy such class of securities is made by an independent fiduciary that is qualified to understand the swap transaction and the effect the swap would have on the rating of the securities and that (a) is a "qualified professional asset manager" ("QPAM") under PTCE 84-14, (b) is an "in-house asset manager" under PTCE 96-23 or (c) has total assets (both plan and non-plan) under management of at least \$100 million at the time the securities are acquired by the plan.

The entity may hold a yield supplement agreement if it satisfies the conditions of an "eligible yield supplement agreement." Generally, any yield supplement agreement will be an eligible yield supplement agreement, provided that if such yield supplement agreement is an interest rate cap contract, a corridor contract or similar arrangement with a notional principal amount and is purchased by or on behalf of the trust to supplement the interest rates otherwise payable on obligations held by the trust fund, then such yield supplement agreement will be an eligible yield supplement agreement only if it meets the following conditions: (a) it is denominated in U.S. dollars; (b) it pays an allowable interest rate; (c) it is not leveraged; (d) it does not allow any of these three preceding requirements to be unilaterally altered without the consent of the trustee; (e) it is entered into between the trust and an eligible counterparty and (f) it has an allowable notional amount.

While each Underwriter Exemption is an individual exemption separately granted to a specific underwriter, the terms and conditions which generally apply to the Underwriter Exemptions are substantially identical, and include the following:

(1) the acquisition of the securities by a Plan is on terms (including the price for the securities) that are at least as favorable to the Plan as they would be in an arm's-length transaction with an unrelated party;

(2) the securities acquired by the Plan have received a rating at the time of the acquisition that is one of the four highest generic rating categories from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ("S&P"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), or Fitch Ratings, Inc. ("Fitch") (each, a "Rating Agency");

(3) the trustee is not an affiliate of any other member of the Restricted Group, as defined below (other than an underwriter);

(4) the sum of all payments made to and retained by the underwriters in connection with the distribution of the securities represents not more than reasonable compensation for underwriting the securities; the sum of all payments made to and retained by the seller pursuant to the assignment of the loans to the issuer represents not more than the fair market value of the loans; the sum of all payments made to and retained by the servicer and any sub-servicer represents not more than reasonable compensation for the person's services under the agreement pursuant to which the loans are pooled and reimbursements of the person's reasonable expenses in connection therewith; and

(5) the Plan investing in the certificates is an "accredited investor" as defined in Rule 501(a)(1) of Regulation D of the SEC under the Securities Act.

The issuer must also meet the following requirements:

(i) the corpus of the issuer must consist solely of assets of the type that have been included in other investment pools;

(ii) securities in those other investment pools must have been rated in one of the four highest rating categories of S&P, Moody's, or Fitch for at least one year prior to the Plan's acquisition of securities; and

(iii) securities evidencing interests in those other investment pools must have been purchased by investors other than Plans for at least one year prior to any Plan's acquisition of securities.

Moreover, the Underwriter Exemptions generally provide relief from certain self-dealing/conflict of interest prohibited transactions that may occur when a Plan fiduciary causes a Plan to acquire securities of an issuer holding receivables as to which the fiduciary (or its affiliate) is an obligor, provided that, among other requirements:

- in the case of an acquisition in connection with the initial issuance of certificates, at least fifty percent (50%) of each class of certificates in which Plans have invested, and at least fifty percent (50%) of aggregate interests in the issuer are acquired by persons independent of the Restricted Group;
- the fiduciary (or its affiliate) is an obligor with respect to not more than five percent (5%) of the fair market value of the obligations contained in the investment pool;
- the Plan's investment in securities of any class does not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of all of the securities of that class outstanding at the time of the acquisition;

- immediately after the acquisition, no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the assets of any Plan with respect to which the person is a fiduciary is invested in securities representing an interest in one or more issuers containing assets sold or serviced by the same entity; and
- the Plan is not sponsored by a member of the Restricted Group, as defined below.

The Underwriter Exemptions provide only limited relief to Plans sponsored by the seller, an underwriter, the trustee, the master servicer, any provider of credit support to the trust, any counterparty to a swap contained in the trust, any obligor with respect to loans included in the investment pool constituting more than five percent (5%) of the aggregate unamortized principal balance of the assets in the trust fund, or any affiliate of those parties (the “Restricted Group”).

The Underwriter Exemptions provide exemptive relief to certain mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities transactions using pre-funding accounts. Mortgage loans or other secured receivables (the “obligations”) supporting payments to securityholders, and having a value equal to no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total principal amount of the securities being offered by the issuer, may be transferred to the issuer within a 90-day or three-month period following the closing date, instead of being required to be either identified or transferred on or before the closing date. The relief is available when the prefunding account satisfies certain conditions.

The rating of a security may change. If a class of securities no longer has a required rating from at least one Rating Agency, the security will no longer be eligible for relief under the Underwriter Exemption (although a Plan that had purchased the security when it had a permitted rating would not be required by the Underwriter Exemption to dispose of it.) A certificate that satisfies the requirements of the Underwriter Exemptions other than the rating requirement may be eligible for purchase by an insurance company investing assets of its general account that include plan assets when the requirements of Sections I and III of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 95-60 are met.

The prospectus supplement for each series of securities will indicate the classes of securities, if any, offered thereby as to which it is expected that an Underwriter Exemption will apply.

Any Plan fiduciary which proposes to cause a Plan to purchase securities are encouraged to consult with its counsel concerning the impact of ERISA and the Code, the applicability of the Underwriter Exemptions, the effect of the Plan Assets Regulation, and the potential consequences in their specific circumstances, prior to making that investment. Moreover, each Plan fiduciary should determine whether under the general fiduciary standards of investment prudence and diversification an investment in the securities is appropriate for the Plan, taking into account the overall investment policy of the Plan and the composition of the Plan’s investment portfolio.

The sale of certificates to a Plan is in no respect a representation by the issuer or any underwriter of the Certificates that this investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by Plans generally or any particular Plan, or that this investment is appropriate for Plans generally or any particular Plan.

### **Legal Investment**

The prospectus supplement for each series of securities will specify which, if any, of the classes of securities offered thereby constitute “mortgage related securities” for purposes of the Secondary Mortgage Market Enhancement Act of 1984 (“SMMEA”). Classes of securities that qualify as “mortgage related securities” will be legal investments for persons, trusts, corporations, partnerships, associations, business trusts, and business entities (including depository institutions, life insurance companies and pension funds) created pursuant to or existing under the laws of the United States or of any state (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) whose authorized investments are subject to state regulations to the same extent as, under applicable law, obligations issued by or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States or those entities. Under SMMEA, if a state enacts legislation prior to October 4, 1991 specifically limiting the legal investment authority of those entities with respect to “mortgage related securities”, securities will constitute legal investments for entities subject to the legislation only to the extent provided therein. Approximately twenty-one states adopted the legislation prior to the October 4, 1991 deadline. SMMEA provides, however, that in no event will the enactment of that legislation affect the validity of



any contractual commitment to purchase, hold or invest in securities, or require the sale or other disposition of securities, so long as the contractual commitment was made or the securities were acquired prior to the enactment of the legislation.

SMMEA also amended the legal investment authority of federally-chartered depository institutions as follows: federal savings and loan associations and federal savings banks may invest in, sell or otherwise deal in securities without limitations as to the percentage of their assets represented thereby, federal credit unions may invest in mortgage related securities, and national banks may purchase securities for their own account without regard to the limitations generally applicable to investment securities set forth in 12 U.S.C. 24 (Seventh), subject in each case to that regulations that the applicable federal authority may prescribe. In this connection, federal credit unions should review the National Credit Union Administration ("NCUA") Letter to Credit Unions No. 96, as modified by Letter to Credit Unions No. 108, which includes guidelines to assist federal credit unions in making investment decisions for mortgage related securities and the NCUA's regulation "Investment and Deposit Activities" (12 C.F.R. Part 703), which sets forth certain restrictions on investment by federal credit unions in mortgage related securities (in each case whether or not the class of securities under consideration for purchase constituted a "mortgage related security"). The NCUA issued final regulations effective December 2, 1991 that restrict and in some instances prohibit the investment by Federal Credit Unions in certain types of mortgage related securities.

All depository institutions considering an investment in the securities (whether or not the class of securities under consideration for purchase constitutes a "mortgage related security") should review the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's Supervisory Policy Statement on the Securities Activities (to the extent adopted by their respective regulators) (the "Policy Statement") setting forth, in relevant part, certain securities trading and sales practices deemed unsuitable for an institution's investment portfolio, and guidelines for (and restrictions on) investing in mortgage derivative products, including "mortgage related securities", which are "high-risk mortgage securities" as defined in the Policy Statement. According to the Policy Statement, those "high-risk mortgage securities" include securities not entitled to distributions allocated to principal or interest, or Subordinate Securities. Under the Policy Statement, it is the responsibility of each depository institution to determine, prior to purchase (and at stated intervals thereafter), whether a particular mortgage derivative product is a "high-risk mortgage security", and whether the purchase (or retention) of that product would be consistent with the Policy Statement.

The foregoing does not take into consideration the applicability of statutes, rules, regulations, orders guidelines or agreements generally governing investments made by a particular investor, including, but not limited to "prudent investor" provisions, percentage-of-assets limits and provisions which may restrict or prohibit investment in securities which are not "interest bearing" or "income paying," or in securities which are issued in book-entry form.

There may be other restrictions on the ability of certain investors, including depository institutions, either to purchase securities or to purchase securities representing more than a specified percentage of the investor's assets. Investors are encouraged to consult their own legal advisors in determining whether and to what extent the securities constitute legal investments for those investors.

### **Method of Distribution**

Securities are being offered hereby in series from time to time (each series evidencing or relating to a separate trust fund) through any of the following methods:

- by negotiated firm commitment or best efforts underwriting and public reoffering by underwriters, including in a securitization of any securities of any series by the depositor or any of its affiliates;
- by agency placements through one or more placement agents primarily with institutional investors and dealers; and
- by placement directly by the depositor with institutional investors.

A prospectus supplement will be prepared for each series which will describe the method of offering being used for that series and will set forth the identity of any underwriters thereof and either the price at which the series is being offered, the nature and amount of any underwriting discounts or additional compensation to those underwriters and the proceeds of the offering to the depositor, or the method by which the price at which the underwriters will sell the securities will be determined. Each prospectus supplement for an underwritten offering will also contain information regarding the nature of the underwriters' obligations, any material relationship between the depositor and any underwriter and, where appropriate, information regarding any discounts or concessions to be allowed or reallocated to dealers or others and any arrangements to stabilize the market for the securities so offered. In firm commitment underwritten offerings, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities of the series if any of those securities are purchased. Securities may be acquired by the underwriters for their own accounts and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with the depositor to indemnification by the depositor against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which the underwriters or agents may be required to make in respect thereof.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), each underwriter will be required to represent and agree with the depositor that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the "Relevant Implementation Date") and with respect to any class of securities with a minimum denomination of less than \$100,000, it has not made and will not make an offer of securities to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the securities which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of securities to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or
- (c) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the depositor of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of securities to the public" in relation to any class of securities of a series, which class has a minimum denomination of less than \$100,000, in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the securities, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

If a series is offered other than through underwriters, the prospectus supplement relating thereto will contain information regarding the nature of the offering and any agreements to be entered into between the depositor and purchasers of securities of the series.

### **Legal Matters**

The validity of the securities of each series, including certain federal income tax consequences with respect thereto, will be passed upon for the depositor by Sidley Austin LLP, 787 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York